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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

THE WAR AGAINST THE BARBARIANS.

THE opening of Parliament and the publication of the two interesting and important Blue Books, entitled "Correspondence respecting the Rights and Privileges of the Latin and Greek Churches in Turkey," have effectually removed many errors and uncertainties from the public mind. The rise, progress, and present state of the Russian aggression against Turkey have been fully stated. There is no longer any mystery or secrecy about the matter. Englishmen have now no reason to suspect that the Statesmen who have successively administered the affairs of this country from 1850 to the present time ever betrayed the high trust reposed in them. It is proved, at least, that they have never acted with subserviency to the wicked designs of the Emperor of Russia. Their hands are clean; and even party hostility can no longer find a peg to hang an accusation or even an insinuation upon. The correspondence which has been published covers a period of no less than forty-four months, included between the 20th May, 1850, and the 24th January, 1854. The remaining gap will be filled up in a few days—as we learn from a statement made by Lord Clarendon, on Monday night—by the publication of all letters and documents received or despatched between the date last mentioned, and the cessation of diplomatic relations between St. Petersburg and the Courts of London and Paris, on the one hand, and between those Courts and St. Petersburg on the other. More important State Papers were never given to the world. Everything in them is fair and open. From the very first letter—when Sir Stratford Canning (now Lord Stratford de Redcliffe) foresaw (May, 1850) the little cloud of danger, no bigger than a man's hand, to the last despatch, when that little cloud had overspread the whole horizon, and threatened a storm such as the world has seldom witnessed—it is evident that the conduct of the Ministers and diplomatists of England has been prudent yet patriotic. If at any time they may have been liable to reproach, their error has been on the right side. They were slow to believe that a crowned Emperor could say that which was not; and that a man who had given repeated proofs to Europe of sagacity and of moderation, could all at once belie his character, and commence a crusade against Mahomedanism, for the sake of territory, even although the penalty of the act should be a war against all the civilised states of Europe. There was neither necessity nor provocation for such incredible temerity; and wise and honest men may be excused for doubting, as long as doubt was possible. The sequel has proved that their confidence was misplaced; but the day has gone by when it can

answer any good purpose to blame them. Their good faith but shows in darker contrast the false devices and shameless ambition of the Czar. Their error, if it be one, has, at all events, placed their opponent so utterly in the wrong as to leave him

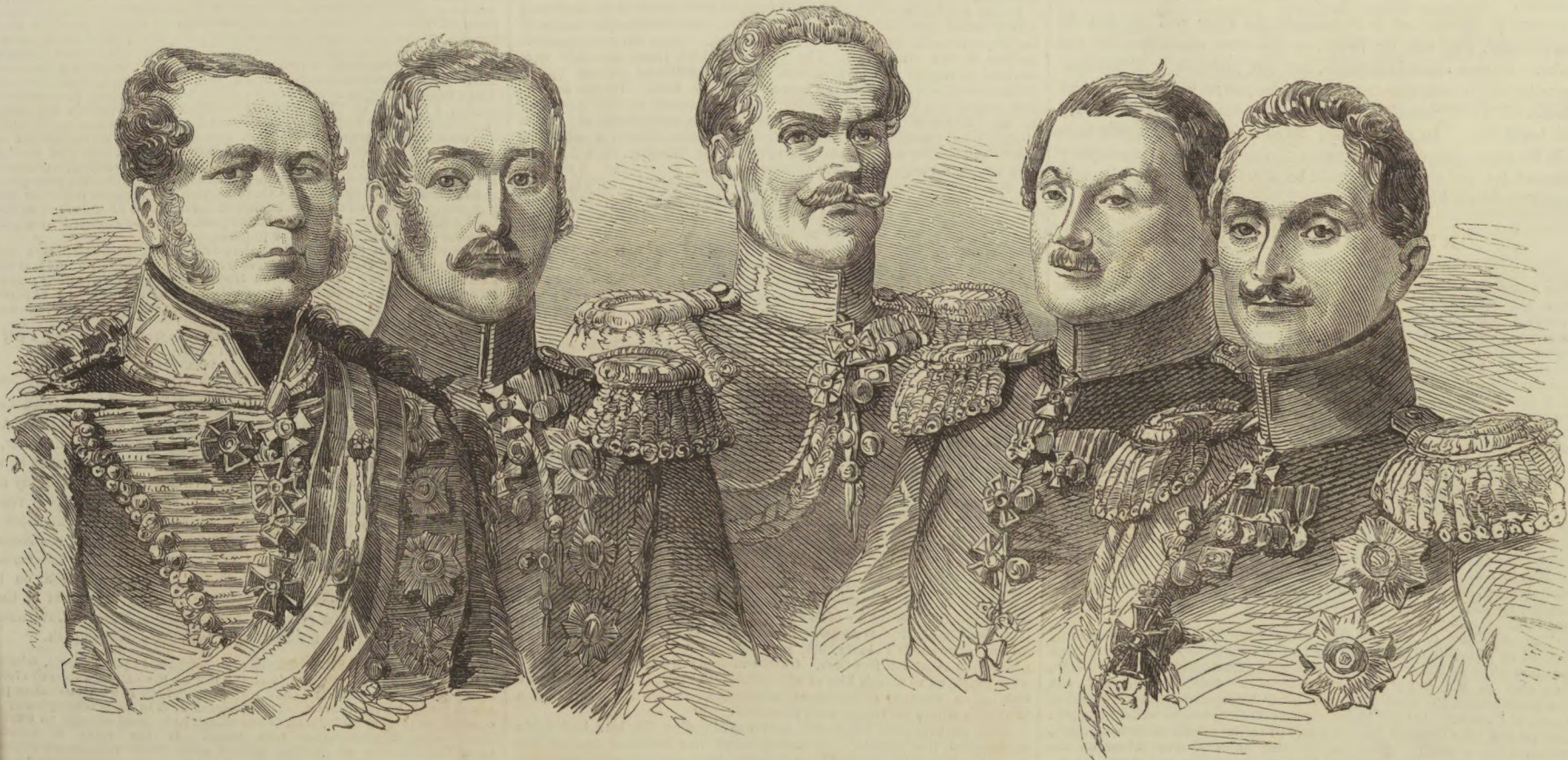
without the shadow of justification. In every stage of these long negotiations he stands condemned. Wherever such a thing as public opinion exists, public opinion has declared against him. Whatever may be their form of Government, the people of every European State are opposed to ambition so nefarious, and to selfishness so abominable. The instinct as well as the reason of nations is alarmed, and the Czar stands without a friend before the supreme tribunal of mankind.

There are many names in history that are never mentioned without disfavour and condemnation. In this black list the present Emperor of Russia promises to stand pre-eminent. The memory of the first Napoleon will shine like that of an angel of light in comparison with the blackness of guilt which will enshroud that of Nicholas. The one had many national and high excuses for his ambition, the other has none but the meanest and the most personal. He is the most selfish of war-makers that modern times ever saw. To find his parallel, we must look to the dim traditions of savage ages. Civilised nations show nothing like him.

The question has often been asked, "Is the Emperor Nicholas in his right mind?" If he were a sane man, it is likely that he would yet find means to extricate himself and his country from the perils that a war will bring upon both. The cessation of diplomatic relations between his Court and those of the two great maritime allies would be no impediment in his way, if his counsels were those of reason. Supposing him still to be sane, the failure of Count Orloff's mission, the determination of Austria and Prussia to afford him neither aid nor countenance in his design, and their scarcely-concealed threat that the disapproving neutrality of to-day may be converted into the active hostility of to-morrow, would be sufficient to open his eyes. But a careful retrospect of his actions from a period long anterior to the mission of Prince Menschikoff, leads to the belief that the Emperor, if not actually insane, has reached the dizzy verge where the distinctions between sanity and insanity are too fine and airy to be appreciated. So hopeless is his cause, and so innumerable are the reasons why he should dread a war with such opponents as are now arrayed against him, even were his objects as righteous as they are unjust, that his conduct cannot be explained upon any hypothesis consistent with his sanity. Those who know the Emperor best have no hopes that he will relent. The same faith in Destiny, which sometimes leads good men to distinction, leads bad men to destruction. Every wrong-doer is predestined to be the architect of his own ruin, and every ambitious despot digs the pit for his own downfall. Yet, though it is highly probable that the Em-



COSSACK OF THE DON.



RUSSIAN GENERALS.—GENERAL RUDIGER.

GENERAL LUDERS.

GENERAL PANIUTINE.

GENERAL KOUPIRANOFF.

GENERAL BERG.

peror will persevere in his projects, and that the war will be a disastrous one, we cannot imagine that it will be disastrous either to Turkey, or to the Allies who have honestly and fearlessly resolved to fight it out. The Marquis of Clanricarde, having often stood in the dread presence of the Czar, exaggerates the evils which the wrath of that potentate may occasion to humanity. Few people will be found to partake the fears of that noble ex-Ambassador to the Court of St. Petersburg. If the Czar loom large as a demigod in the imagination of those who have enjoyed the high privilege of his smile, or the ineffable discouragement of his frowns, he is a mere man to all others—at least, to all others who are not ignorant Russian serfs. To Russia herself, and to the Emperor more especially, it is likely that the war will be disastrous; and if, by any turn in the wheel of events, Austria should prove false to the rightful cause, which it is so much her interest to aid, the disastrous consequences would most certainly extend to her even more largely than to the original evil-doer. To Great Britain and to France, inconveniences and a few sacrifices are the worst that can result; but nothing that can warrant the name of disaster is to be apprehended for a moment. The Allies take upon themselves the high office of the judges of European law, and the executioners of its justice. In the task thus forced upon them they will be supported, not simply as a cold matter of duty, but with ardour and enthusiasm. It is, therefore, not likely that the war will be a protracted one. Indeed we do not see how it is possible for the Czar to make head against the Allies for three months after the Baltic shall have been cleared of ice. With one of the finest fleets that ever sailed the seas opposed to him in the Euxine, and with another equally splendid and powerful opposed to him in the Baltic, the Czar will speedily find himself without a ship. What the Russians will say to such a catastrophe remains to be seen; but we much miscalculate their temper if their faith in the orthodox Lord-Emperor will not thereby receive a shock which may imperil his crown. The loss of Finland might follow the loss of his Baltic fleet if he still maintained the war; and the loss of the Crimea, and even of Bessarabia and Georgia might not, in the same contingency, be long delayed after the capture of Sebastopol. It must not be forgotten, in the calculation of chances against the Emperor, that the restoration of the ancient kingdom of Poland has long been considered necessary. The dismemberment of that kingdom—a crime in which Prussia and Austria were unwilling agents—has hitherto been all to the advantage of Russia. If Austria and Prussia shared the spoil, they never gained any material benefit which recompensed them, even to the one-hundredth part, for the loss of honour they incurred. To them the acquisition has been nothing but a nuisance and a danger; and it is highly probable that they will be glad to give up their slice of that gigantic plunder (and blunder), if they could thereby be the means of erecting an effectual barrier against their aggressive neighbour.

It is true that it is not so easy to get at the Emperor's armies as at his fleets; but, it should be remembered, that if the armies of the Allies have a difficulty in reaching those of the Czar, the difficulty will be removed as soon as the Russians make the least movement in advance. Neither Great Britain nor France is likely to commit the mistake of Napoleon, and push on to Moscow. The possession of the littoral of the Black Sea, would be quite sufficient for the Allies. We might safely trust the Russians themselves to lend a hand in bringing the war to a conclusion, were our first successes to include even the possession of the Crimea. The lessons of the last ten months have not been thrown away. Both the statesmen and the people of the west of Europe have learned to appreciate the advantages of decision. If Great Britain and France had been as decided in May last as they are now, the growing mischief might have been nipped in the bud. To be energetic and decided at the present time is the only means of making the impending war a short one. To strike rapidly and to strike effectually is alike the policy and the desire of all the friends of European independence. Such a policy is not only wise, but it is merciful.

It may be urged, that it is possible the Czar will yield at the last moment, and sue for peace on the best conditions he can make. Such a result is possible, but not probable. If the Emperor be so prudent, the prestige of his power will be lost, and Russia will be disgraced in the eyes of a people as proud as they are barbarian. In such a case, Nicholas will never again have it in his power to trouble the peace of the world. A peremptory demand for his abdication would be the least of the perils that would threaten him.

RUSSIAN GENERALS.

GENERAL LÜDERS.

THE name of General Lüders has chiefly been known in connection with the Hungarian war, in which he took a most distinguished part. It was on the 27th April, 1849, that Count Nesselrode, in a diplomatic circular, explained to the Powers of Europe the motives that had induced the Emperor to interfere in the contest between Austria and Hungary. A few days after, a Russian army, to the number of 150,000 men, entered Hungary at various points, under the general command of Prince Paskiewitch. The first division, under the command of the Prince himself, went by the way of Galicia into Northern Hungary. Another, under a general whose name we do not recall, entered by Moravia the north-west of Hungary. The third, which entered Transylvania, was under the command of General Lüders. This consisted of 40,000 men.

It was the good fortune of Lüders that the division he commanded should have been ordered to the scene of the last and decisive conflict of the civil war. Up to this period, the gallantry and military skill of Görgey had carried all before him. He had beaten the Austrian General, Wohlgemuth, in several important encounters; and as the arms of Hungary had, of late under Bem, and Dembinski also, been crowned with success, the sanguine patriots indulged in hopes that, notwithstanding the menaced interference of Russia, the cause of the country was not lost.

The advance of the Russian army into Transylvania, however, caused an immediate change in the contest. At the beginning of June not less than 60,000 troops were employed, principally in Transylvania, but also in the Banat, and in Slavonia. On the 12th July, the Russians joined the Austrians, the latter being under the command of General Pückner. On the 14th these combined forces retook Cronstadt; and on the 16th General Lüders marched to the attack of Hermanstadt, which after a severe battle on his way thither, was taken on the 21st. Clamgallas, the Russian General, beat General Bem, at St. György. The disorganised state of the Magyar army at this moment is attested by the proclamation which Bem, after his defeat, issued at Schassburg on the 25th:—"At the battle of György," said the General, "the behaviour of the troops did not equal my expectations. I am extremely dissatisfied with the infantry. During the battle the masses

got into such disorder that they fired on each other. The confused shouting drowned the voices of the officers. If the latter had accustomed their men to silence, this never could have occurred. I therefore prohibit screaming and shouting in the ranks, under pain of death. Every detachment which quits the field of battle without orders shall be decimated. Major Markowsky continually cried 'Forward!' when there was no enemy, and his battalion, by its disorderly movements, created the greatest confusion. If such things should happen again I will make an example. The roads are covered with stragglers, but I will, in future, bring any man who unnecessarily quits his troop to a drum-head court-martial."

Bem was attacked by General Lüders, at Schassburg, on the 31st, and his forces completely routed. The Hungarian General was wounded by the lance of a Cossack, whilst the Russians were in pursuit, and very narrowly escaped being taken prisoner. In Bem's travelling carriage were found several letters from Kossuth, the publication of which had no doubt considerable influence on the termination of the war. Disclosing the utter bankruptcy into which the Hungarian finances had been plunged, these letters gave offence to General Görgey, who then openly began to swerve from his duty. Bem retreated towards Mediasel, after his defeat at Schassburg. He reached that place on the 3rd August, at the head of not more than 9000 or 10,000 men. He was joined by about 5000 more, and marched upon Hermanstadt, which place had been left in charge of General Hassford. Bem obtained a victory over the enemy in the streets of the city, and Hassford retreated to Talmars, on the borders of Wallachia. General Lüders had made a strong effort to save General Hassford the issue of a battle, but arrived too late. As soon as he came up, however, the Russian General attacked the Hungarians, and completely defeated them. General Lüders afterwards assisted General Rüdiger in driving Görgey into the surrender which soon afterwards closed the war.

When the occupation of the Principalities was resolved on, General Lüders was thought of (as also was General Rüdiger) for the chief command. But the superior claims of Prince Gortschakoff prevailed, and General Lüders was left in command of his corps (the fifth). He is an Aide-de-Camp General.

GENERAL COUNT RÜDIGER.

Except that the family of General Rüdiger is of German origin, we are unable to afford any of those personal particulars regarding him which are interesting in a biographical notice, but which are perhaps less necessary in the case of a soldier than of a civilian, because the advancement of the former, especially in Russia, depends more upon his own talents than on family interest or connections.

As a military man, General Rüdiger has, for more than a quarter of a century, held a prominent place among the notabilities of his country. He took an active part in the war of 1828 between the Russians and the Turks in the Danubian Principalities. The corps he commanded was employed in a task of no ordinary difficulty—that of opening the way for the Imperial army to Constantinople; and, in the meantime, of intercepting the Turkish communications. On the 31st of July of this year, Rüdiger, after many ineffectual efforts, succeeded—but not till after much resistance on the part of the Turks—in establishing himself at Eski Stamboul, a position on the road to Constantinople, behind Shumla, where he was able to prevent the arrival of convoys and reinforcements from the capital. This was a service requiring an officer of no ordinary capacity and resources; and, although Rüdiger was not always so fortunate, he, on this occasion, completely succeeded. His position so hampered the Turks, that Hussein Pacha resolved on dislodging him, although the forces of Rüdiger had been strengthened from the main army. Hussein Pacha, on the night of the 26th of August, commenced an assault simultaneously at three points of the Russian army; two of them, however, being only feints to cover the third, which was to dislodge Rüdiger. This last was successful; and Rüdiger, after a severe fight, was compelled to abandon his position, and obliged to re-unite himself to the main body of the Russian army by a circuitous route. In the end, the object of the Turks was fully attained, as the communication between Shumla and Constantinople was not again attempted to be disturbed. These operations were terminated by the surrender of Varna by Yussef Pacha, which the enemies of Russia have attributed to treachery and corruption.

In the following year, the war having been renewed, General Rüdiger was actively engaged. When Count Diebitzsch resolved on the march to Adrianople, the right column of the two into which the Russian army was divided for the purpose of crossing the Balkan, was under the command of General Rüdiger. It consisted of fourteen battalions and two regiments of Cossacks, and it took the direction of Kiuiprikio. In order to deceive the Turks, these corps had to steal away from before Shumla, their places being supplied by others. The movement succeeded, and General Rüdiger was able to cross the river. As he drew near Kiuiprikio, however, he learned that the Turks had collected a body of 3000 men, which could not be dislodged without great slaughter. He, accordingly, resolved to turn their position himself, at the head of the main army, while two battalions and a regiment of Cossacks should attack the Turks in front. This operation was perfectly successful. Appearing before Cralamaly on the 17th July, he surprised 1000 Turks, who dispersed without the slightest show of resistance. In the course of the night he crossed the river, over which he had thrown a bridge, and on the 18th marched against Kiuiprikio. The Pacha who commanded at that place endeavoured to check the further progress of Rüdiger; but the Turkish troops, after being drawn up in order of battle, quitted the field without firing a shot. The left column of the Russian army was equally successful in crossing at another point; and, on the 21st General Rüdiger reached Erketsh, General Roth at the same time pushing his advanced guard to Palibano. Thus General Rüdiger retrieved his past ill-success almost on the very scene of his disasters.

In the war between Russia and Poland in 1831, General Rüdiger took a very active part, and, with General Kreuz, was instrumental in checking the successful advances made by the Polish army during the earlier portion of the hostilities. The point at which these generals were enabled to render this service, was after the victories gained by the Poles over the Russians in the month of March, 1831. On the 30th of that month the Polish Commander, availing himself of the inactivity of the Russian troops, which followed the retirement of Prince Radzivil as Commander-in-Chief of the Russian forces, commenced active operations against the enemy. From Warsaw he led 25,000 men through Praga, to attack General Geismar at Wawer. Favoured by the facilities of the road and the darkness of the night, he advanced without the knowledge of the Russian outposts. The advanced guard, under the command of Geismar, and consisting of ten thousand men, was surprised at Wawer, the entrenchments of which were stormed; and it was forced to fall back by a precipitate retreat, on the stronger force of General Rosen, posted at Dembe-Wielkie. The Poles improved the occasion, attacked the enemy again, and, after a struggle of many hours, compelled General Rosen to abandon his position, and fall back upon the reserve; the Poles moving northwards after him, and throwing bodies of their troops across the Bug, approaching the position of Marshal Diebitzsch himself. These successes on the part of the Poles were accompanied by a partial insurrection in Lithuania, and more especially in the Government of Wilna. This movement was joined by some of the Polish nobility; but the Russian troops were so strong in the disaffected provinces, that a general rising would have been speedily quelled. It was at this crisis that Generals Rüdiger and Kreuz retrieved the reverse suffered by the Russians. After the victories of March, the Polish General Sierawski had been despatched to aid Dwernecki in the south, in raising an insurrection in Volhynia. In the first instance their operations were successful; they cleared the right bank of the Vistula of the enemy, and Dwernecki even crossed the Bug. But they advanced too incautiously, and acted too far asunder. The fate of Dwernecki was determined by General Rüdiger in an action fought on the 20th April. The Russian General, having brought the enemy to action, compelled him to commence a retrograde movement; while the nearly contemporaneous defeat of Sierawski, by General Kreuz, set free the troops of the latter, and cut off the retreating army from the Vistula and Warsaw. Rüdiger followed the Polish General in his retreat towards Poland, and gradually closed in upon him as he neared the Austrian frontiers. On the 29th April the Russian Generals were prepared to attack him at all points; but Sierawski declined the risk of an unequal engagement, and sought refuge in the Austrian territory, where his troops were disarmed.

After the defeat of Dwernecki, in Volhynia, Gen. Rüdiger had again approached the Vistula. A strong corps was detached against him under the command of the Polish General Janowski, while Chrzanowski, proceeding from Zemesa, was to throw himself in his rear. The Russian General would thus be surrounded by troops greatly superior, and the Poles counted on the annihilation of his army. Rüdiger, however, instead of waiting the united attack, suddenly made his appearance before Janowski, attacked him, and compelled him to retreat with the loss of

some prisoners and artillery. He then marched to Lublin, which Chrzanowski had reached in the exercise of his part of the design, recovered the town, and compelled the Polish General to return to the left bank of the Vistula. Gen. Rüdiger continued to be actively employed up to the period of the Poles laying down their arms. Just as the war was about to close, the corps of Gen. Rüdiger, now left unmolested by the Polish forces which had watched him at Volhynia, crossed the Vistula above Warsaw, and moved round to the southward to join the main army. The Polish army had taken up its position a few leagues to the westward of the capital, between Kolo and Lowez, but were driven from it by Gen. Rüdiger without much serious fighting.

The reputation acquired by General Rüdiger in the foregoing operations, led to his taking a prominent share in the war in Hungary. The corps under his command formed part of the army of Prince Paskiewitch, sent by the Emperor Nicholas to assist Austria in putting down the insurrection in that country. Here he earned fresh laurels by defeating Görgey in a pitched battle at Waitzen, which ultimately led to the final surrender of that General. Rüdiger followed up his enemy towards Lugos, and co-operated with General Lüders in the subsequent movements. Görgey had been appointed Military Dictator; and, in the exercise of his discretion (whether as a traitor or as a sound patriot, it must remain for posterity to decide), he resolved on capitulating. It was General Rüdiger who had the honour of receiving the submission of the distinguished chief whom he had so recently and so signally defeated in the field. It was to him that Görgey, on the 30th August, 1849, surrendered at Vilagosh with 30,000 men and 138 pieces of artillery; and thus to General Rüdiger fell the additional honour of having terminated this civil war.

It is said, that the Emperor's satisfaction with his services was so great, that when a war with the Turks, preceded by a seizure of the Danubian provinces of Turkey, was resolved on, he desired to have placed Rüdiger at the head of his armies. But the pretexts of the war being closely mixed up with nationality and religion, a general of purely Russian origin and reputation was preferred. Hence the choice of Prince Gortschakoff (who is of better descent than even the Emperor himself) although he is regarded as being a far inferior general to Rüdiger, who is an Aide-de-Camp General, and General of Cavalry. He is also a member of the Council for the Administration of the Affairs of Poland, of which Prince Paskiewitch is President.

The five preceding Portraits are from prints recently published at St. Petersburg. Of Generals Lüders and Rüdiger we have given copious memoirs. Of Pantiutine, Kouprianoff, and Berg, comparatively little is known; but, as they are Generals of Division, in all probability, should the war proceed, they will hereafter be heard of.

THE "BLUE-BOOKS" ON THE TURKISH QUESTION.

THE two Parliamentary "Blue-Books," entitled "Correspondence respecting the Rights and Privileges of the Latin and Greek Churches in Turkey," which were published at the close of last week, will remove a whole host of misconceptions with reference to the Eastern Question and to the part which has been played in it by the British Ministry. The two volumes contain nearly 800 folio pages, and include no less than 788 letters, notes, and despatches between the British Government and its diplomatic agents at Constantinople, St. Petersburg, Vienna, Berlin, and Paris. The first letter, from Sir Stratford Canning to Lord Palmerston, is dated from Constantinople, as far back as the 20th of May, 1850; and the last, from the Earl of Clarendon to Sir G. H. Seymour, is dated the 24th of January, 1854. The correspondence thus extends over a period of no less than three years and eight months. The great interest attaching to these documents, and their important bearing on the still pending question of peace or war, induce us to endeavour to present a fair epitome of their contents in as short a compass as is consistent with lucidity. We propose to trace the story from the commencement, when the first symptoms of danger were detected in the East by Sir Stratford Canning. His letter is so remarkable, not only for the announcement of a fact, but for the sagacity of the prediction based upon it, that we reproduce it without abridgment. It is the key that unlocks the whole mystery. It will be seen that an unlucky desire on the part of Louis Napoleon—at that time seeking to rise from the condition of temporary President of the French Republic to the more brilliant position of hereditary Emperor—led him to make great exertions to strengthen his cause by the support of the French priesthood. It suited his purpose to ally himself to all the spiritual objects of the Papacy, and to emulate, in this respect, the ancient pretensions of Louis XIV. and the older Bourbons, who always styled themselves "Most Christian Kings." Louis Napoleon was not aware what mischief he was thus the instrument of producing. He discovered his error before it was too late, and has nobly made amends for his mistake by his cordial co-operation with this country in protecting the rights of the Sultan, and in confronting the common enemy of Europe. Sir Stratford Canning (now Lord Stratford de Redcliffe) thus sounded the first note of alarm, on the 20th of May, 1850:—

SIR STRATFORD CANNING TO VISCOUNT PALMERSTON.

Constantinople, May 20, 1850.

My Lord,—A question, likely to be attended with much discussion and excitement, is on the point of being raised between the conflicting interests of the Latin and Greek Churches in this country. The immediate point of difference is the right of possession to certain portions of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. The Greeks are accused of having usurped property which belongs of right to the Roman Catholics, and of having purposely allowed the chapels, and particularly the monuments of Godefroi de Bouillon, and of Guy de Lusignan, to go into decay. The French Legation at this Court considers itself entitled by treaty—the treaty, I believe, of 1740—to take the lead in vindicating the alleged rights of the Latin Church. The French Consul at Jerusalem, M. Botta, has been recently here, and returns by-and-by to assist the cause; and General Aupick, who has received instructions from Paris, and to whom I am indebted for a conversational overture on this subject, has applied for a conference, with the probable intention of bringing his case at once under the notice of the Turkish Government. It appears that the Pope has been moved to exert his influence in furtherance of the views adopted by France; and that all the Catholic powers will be engaged by his Holiness to co-operate for the same purpose.

General Aupick has assured me that the matter in dispute is a mere question of property, and of express treaty of stipulation. But it is difficult to separate any such question from political considerations; and a struggle of general influence—especially if Russia, as may be expected, should interfere in behalf of the Greek Church—will, probably, grow out of the impending discussion.

The Porte, I conceive, will do well to abstain from committing itself to either side without the maturest deliberation.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Fifteen days after writing this despatch, Sir Stratford informed Lord Palmerston (June 5th) that the Spanish, Sardinian, and Neapolitan Ambassadors at Constantinople, had severally sent in notes to the Porte, in support of the French demand, and stating that they had acted by the express command of their respective Governments. His Excellency also announced that the Greek Church was preparing for a vigorous resistance, and the probability that they would be strongly supported by Russian influence. The progress of the negotiations thus commenced by France, does not appear either to have been rapid or satisfactory. In a letter, addressed by General Aupick to Ali Pacha, on the 23rd February, 1851—nine months after the commencement of these semi-religious, semi-political controversies—the French Government actually threatened war if its demands were not complied with.

France (says General Aupick) desires to know, in plain terms, whether the Porte considers itself still bound to her by the capitulations of 1740, it being perfectly established that no act in which France has taken part has invalidated their force. The Minister of France is consequently instructed to press the Ottoman Government to be good enough to explain itself categorically upon this point. If the reply is satisfactory, the Minister of Foreign Affairs adds, there will be no obstacle to the opening of a negotiation in which the French Government will assuredly not refuse to agree to any alterations which may be consistent with its just rights, and with the essential interests of a cause which it is defending on behalf of Catholicism at large. If, on the contrary, the reply should be in the negative, or what would amount to the same thing, if the Ottoman Government should continue to entrench itself behind

contradictory statements, the Porte will understand that the result can only be a serious prejudice to its relations with France.

But, if negotiations were slow, events were rapidly leading to complications; and, on the 6th of March Sir Stratford Canning officially informed Lord Palmerston that a second Great Power of Europe had set upon the unhappy Sultan, and that Austria had pretended to a right of protection over the interests of the Roman Catholics, similar, in some degree, to that which had been asserted by France. The Porte does not seem to have been inclined to favour any of these demands, probably considering them as impertinent as Great Britain would consider a demand on the part of France, Austria, and the Pope, to exercise protection over the Roman Catholics in Ireland. Sir Stratford Canning, watching events, but in no respect interfering, notified the British Government on the 17th September, that the negotiations respecting the Holy Buildings at Jerusalem had begun to assume a more serious aspect, and that the Russian Government had manifested, of late, an increased interest in the maintenance of the Greek pretensions. The claims of Russia to dictate to Turkey being menaced by so many competitors, Russia thought it high time to interfere, and to prove to the Porte that she was as strong and as insolent as ever, and that she was not going to allow France and Austria to assert claims of interference that might prove fatal to the supremacy which for upwards of a century she had been striving to establish for herself. The state of affairs in November, 1851, twenty months after the Government of Louis Napoleon had first started the question, was described to Sir Stratford Canning by M. de Lavalette, who had in the interval succeeded General Aupick as French Ambassador at Constantinople. Sir Stratford thus reports to Lord Palmerston (Nov. 4) a conversation with M. de Lavalette, in which the views of the French Government and the then state of the controversy were stated with fulness and precision. It will be seen that at that time the aspect of affairs had become somewhat perilous:—

France (says M. de Lavalette) is entitled, by its treaty of 1740 with the Porte, to vindicate the right of the Latins to an exclusive occupation of all the sanctuaries which they possessed at that time. The conferences lately opened here have resulted in a clear establishment of that right as applied to the holy buildings—ten, I believe, in number—most of which are now possessed jointly by the two communions, and some exclusively by the Greeks. M. de Lavalette, instead of pushing his right to an extreme, took upon himself the responsibility of declaring his readiness to extend the principle of joint possession to the whole number. In so doing, he would have anticipated the instructions of his Government, and exposed himself to the animadversion of Rome, and of certain parties in France. An arrangement to this effect was unofficially agreed upon between Ali Pacha and himself, when he learnt that the Russian Envoy had sent in a letter from the Emperor Nicholas to the Sultan, which immediately altered the intentions of the Porte, and left him no choice but that of either accepting an inadmissible proposal or appealing to his Government. The proposal, which he thought impossible to accept, was that of including in the principle of joint possession all the sanctuaries now possessed exclusively by the Latins. This proposal was represented to me by the Turkish Ministers as embracing all the principal sects of Christianity; but, whichever may be the correct version, it appears that M. de Titoff was as much opposed to it as M. de Lavalette. The former declared to the Turkish Minister that he and his Legation would immediately quit Constantinople if the *status quo* of the sanctuaries were in any degree unsettled. The Porte has, in consequence, substituted another proposal, namely, that it would reserve its final decision until after a full investigation of the quarrel on which the several conflicting pretensions, including those of the Greeks, of the Latins, and of Russia, are respectively founded. This proposal is scarcely less distasteful to M. de Lavalette than the preceding one. He has acted with moderation throughout; he has been careful not to commit his Government—he has made no written communication except his opening note, and such documents as were necessary for establishing the joint commission of inquiry; and he is anxious to act with moderation to the last; but, at the same time, he thinks it impossible to submit with honour to the present plan of proceedings: his Government, having embarked in the question, cannot, with any degree of credit or consistency, stop short under the dictation of Russia. The national party in France, the Catholic party there and elsewhere, will press for the full assertion of right under treaty; and, as for himself, he will retire rather than be made the instrument—as he conceives he would be, in the supposed case—of his country's humiliation; nay, more, if it depended upon him, he would not hesitate to make use of the great naval force now possessed by France in the Mediterranean; and, by blockading the Dardanelles, bring the question in debate forthwith to a satisfactory issue.

On the day following that on which Sir Stratford Canning wrote in these terms to Lord Palmerston, his Excellency thought it incumbent upon him again to communicate with his Government. Sir Stratford, in consequence of M. de Lavalette's representations, sought and obtained an interview with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs; and learned that the Porte thought favourably of the French claim, without admitting it to its full extent, but considered that Russia had no right to interfere. While affairs were in this ominous condition, M. Reaulet, the Secretary of the French Legation in Constantinople, arrived in Paris, having ridden express, to detail the circumstances to M. Turgot, at that time (Nov. 20) French Minister for Foreign Affairs. Lord Normanby expressed to M. Turgot his earnest hope that the question would not be pressed at that moment to an extent likely to lead to a diplomatic rupture. Lord Palmerston coincided in this opinion, and wrote to Lord Normanby that it would indeed be lamentable if a serious difference were to arise between France on the one hand, and Russia and Turkey on the other, "upon a matter so unimportant." The Porte, beset by two such powerful enemies, endeavoured to temporise; but no compromise at that time suggested, appeared likely to give satisfaction to either party. On the 17th January, Sir Stratford Canning wrote to Earl Granville (who had succeeded Lord Palmerston as Foreign Secretary) his belief that, although no decision had been officially announced to M. de Lavalette, an arrangement of the question was in preparation, the terms of which would be, a concession to the Roman Catholics of the right of officiating in the Shrine of the Virgin, near Jerusalem, together with keys to the Church of the Nativity, at Bethlehem. This was a concession which, in the opinion of Sir Stratford, Russia, on behalf of the Greek Church, was not likely to tolerate; and he was informed that an equivalent was to be given to the Czar, in the shape of an admission of priests of the Greek ritual to the right of officiating on certain occasions in the Mosque of Mount Olivet. But the Russian Ambassador was not satisfied with this project, and seeking an interview with Ali Pacha on the 11th February, expressed himself with unusual vehemence and no small degree of irritation against any such arrangement. Throughout these transactions the Ministers of the Sultan appear to have conducted themselves in the most courteous and conciliatory manner. They may possibly have wished a "plague upon both churches"—but they took care to give no just ground of offence to either. All this time, M. de Lavalette vied with M. Titoff in violence and unreasonableness; while the Divan was fairly puzzled how to act. Relieved for a moment from the importunities of M. de Lavalette, it sided with M. Titoff; and as soon as M. de Lavalette suspected any advantage had accrued or was likely to accrue to his rival, he was "down" again upon the Divan with renewed demands. A firman, however, was ultimately published, which appeared to satisfy the French Ambassador; and shortly afterwards he quitted Constantinople and returned to Paris, leaving a Chargé d'Affaires to act for him in his absence. From March to August, there is a blank in the history; and Sir Stratford Canning, believing apparently that the affair was settled, left Constantinople for awhile. Colonel Rose remaining as British Chargé d'Affaires.

But the discussions had been highly injurious to the tranquillity of the Sultan and his Ministers. Russian intrigue was busily at work, and a new Minister of Foreign Affairs was appointed, and supposed to be more favourable to Russian supremacy. The Russian Ambassador did not leave Constantinople. He had work to accomplish, and speedily obtained a counter firman, more favourable to the Greek Christians than was consistent with the high and almost

exclusive rights which had been assumed and conceded to France on behalf of the Latins, or Roman Catholics. M. de Lavalette, as soon as these facts became known in Paris, was sent back to Constantinople with all speed, and returned in a somewhat menacing manner in the *Charlemagne*, a 90-gun ship, in defiance of the provisions of the convention of the Dardanelles. This was in the month of August. Colonel Rose, writing to Lord Malmesbury on the 14th of that month, stated that M. de Lavalette complained of bad faith on the part of the Turkish Government: that he had accepted, in February, the tenth part only of the sanctuaries to which France had a positive right by the treaty of 1740; that he was obliged, at the same time, to give in a nominal protest in favour of that treaty, but he assured the Porte that all appeal to it should be waived for five or ten years, perhaps for ever; but that the Porte, on the very day after he left Constantinople on leave, gave a firman to the Greeks, which made out the treaty of 1740 to be valueless. With the question of the Holy Places was mixed up that of the Turkish Loan, and the combined effects of both were near upon producing a revolution in Turkey, and the deposition of the Sultan in favour of a younger brother. Little of these things was known to the public in London and Paris. The information received from Constantinople was scanty and contradictory; though it was generally surmised that danger to the peace of Europe was involved in the events of that capital. The French Government was loudly blamed as the facts of the case became better understood; and the French Emperor was warned by many public writers in this country, and by this Journal among the number, of the impolicy of doing anything to weaken the Sultan, when Russia was awaiting the opportunity to profit by the occasion, and carry a step nearer to completion her long-cherished projects of dismembering the Turkish Empire. The French Government seems to have been ultimately convinced of the truth of this reasoning, and of such allegations against its policy; and M. Drouyn de L'Huys, in September, expressed to Lord Cowley his wish that the question should be settled honourably for France without embarrassing the Porte. Hitherto, Sir Stratford Canning and Colonel Rose had been mere spectators of events, and had simply kept the British Government informed of all that was passing. In that capacity, Colonel Rose, under date of the 20th of November, thus stated to Lord Malmesbury the condition in which the Sultan was placed:—

The Porte's position is most disadvantageous. Against all her wishes and interests she has been dragged into a most dangerous and difficult dispute between the great Powers, who found their respective claims on contradictory documents, which date from remote and dark ages. The Porte, a Mahometan power, is called on to decide a quarrel which involves, ostensibly, sectarian Christian religious feeling, but which, in reality, is a vital struggle between France and Russia for political influence at the Porte's cost, in her dominions. The Sultan is required to be a judge, and to decide this dispute; but, so far from having judicial independence and immunity, his Majesty is coerced and humiliated before his subjects by menaces, forced to give contradictory and dishonouring decisions, and then accused of perjury by those who have driven him into it.

The trumpety nature of the differences at this time, when the peace of the world was seemingly threatened by them, appears in a ludicrous but painful light, from another passage in the same letter. Fuad Effendi having asked Colonel Rose to avail himself of his good relations with M. de Lavalette and M. d'Ozeroff (the Russian Chargé d'Affaires), and see if there was a possibility of a reconciliation:—

With the view, therefore, of obtaining exact information on this point, I visited these two gentlemen, disclaiming the part of a mediator, and only taking the unofficial one of a mutual friend, anxious to explain possible misapprehensions as to details, trifling in themselves, but involving the most important interests. And this mode of proceeding was the more advantageous, because M. de Lavalette and M. d'Ozeroff see each other but seldom, and when they do, never mention the Holy Places. They both received me in the best spirit; and, although I effected no reconciliation, I at least removed two causes of misapprehension. M. d'Ozeroff said that he had not considered the great door of the Church of Bethlehem as so serious a cause of difference as M. de Lavalette had done; even adding, that that matter might have been arranged, if M. de Lavalette had not opposed the reading of the firman at Jerusalem.

On the other hand, M. d'Ozeroff thought that M. de Lavalette had supported the claim of the Latins to have a cupboard and a lamp in the Tomb of the Virgin. I assured him that he, on the contrary, had disallowed it. M. d'Ozeroff said that he could not deviate in the slightest degree from the positive orders of the Emperor; that Russia would not go to war; she would only, should the Porte not fulfil her engagements as to the Holy Places, withdraw her Legation from Constantinople; that there are other Courts at which Russia had no representative.

M. de Lavalette said that he could not deviate in the slightest degree from the note of the 9th of February last, but that he was perfectly ready to re-open the examination of France's rights as to the Holy Places, taking as the basis of them the treaty of 1740; that the Latins would seldom pass through the great door—perhaps, for what he knew, never at all.

I said all that I thought most likely to produce a good effect on the French and Russian representatives, and concluded by assuring them that, having visited the Holy Places, and made myself thoroughly acquainted with all the bearings of that matter, I should always be happy to remove, as I had done in the present instance, misapprehensions which might prevent a favourable solution of this unfortunate difference.

Lord Malmesbury highly approved of the efforts made by Colonel Rose in this conversation; but instructed him (Dec. 14) "to abstain from any direct or official interference in a question with which, in itself, her Majesty's Government had nothing to do." This was the first error of judgment which appears to have been committed by the British Government. It is clear, however, that Lord Aberdeen had nothing to do with it.

(To be continued.)

THE LAYARD BOX.

At a Court of Common Council, holden in the Guildhall of the city of London, on the 3rd of March, 1853, it was proposed by Mr. Deputy Bennoch, seconded by Mr. Deputy Lott, and resolved unanimously:—

That the Freedom of this City, in a silver-gilt Box of the value of fifty guineas, be presented to Austen Henry Layard, Esq., D.C.L., M.P., &c., as a testimonial of his persevering and zealous exertions in the discovery of the long-lost remains of Eastern antiquity, and for securing them in so perfect a state as to demonstrate the accuracy of Sacred History, and illustrate the early habits of the human race; and for his indefatigable labour and skill, by which this country has been enabled to place such valuable memorials of ancient grandeur amongst the collections of the British Museum.

The superintendence of the Box was delegated by the late Lord Mayor (Mr. Alderman Challis), to his deputy, Mr. Bennoch; who, assisted by Mr. Scott, of the Chamberlain's Office, made certain suggestions, and confided the execution of the design and work to Mr. Alfred Brown, the sculptor, whose brother, Mr. James Brown, made the drawing from which our Illustration is engraved.

The design is composed of copies from the Nimroud Marbles, grouped so as to form the decoration of the Box, and also to illustrate the manners and customs of the ancient Assyrians. At each angle of the Box is placed the human-headed Bull and Lion, so peculiar to Eastern art. Between the angles are reliefs of the Lion Hunt, as exhibiting their sports and pastimes; the Assyrian Horsemen chasing and overcoming the Arabs, as indicative of military prowess; the King in his chariot, led through the city with pomp and ceremony, showing something of municipal parade in those early times; and the Winged Deities, or Priests, kneeling before the Sacred Roll, as descriptive of their religious faith and practice.

The mouldings forming the ribs have been selected from the mutilated remains of tiles and bricks preserved in the British Museum. On the lid, in an attitude of benediction, is represented the deity of the Assyrians. Inside the lid is engraved the arms of Dr. Layard and those of the City of London, connected by a scroll; and the inscription, which is a copy of the resolution, given above.

This is, we believe, the first practical use that has been made of the Layard sculptures in connection with art. It was a happy thought to take advantage of the result of the labours of Layard, and make them thus contribute to his honour. The effect is excellent, and we shall be greatly mistaken if advantage is not taken of the present work for the introduction of a new style in the designs for gold and silver.

The freedom was duly presented to Mr. Layard at a very full meeting of the Common Council, on Thursday, when the customary oaths were ad-

ministered by the Chamberlain, Sir John Key, who, in an address of much eloquence, welcomed the Eastern traveller, and admitted him a citizen of London. When the cheering had subsided, Mr. Layard, addressing the members of the Corporation, gave some interesting particulars of his work, and incidentally referred to what is passing in the east of Europe. Our limited space prevents our giving the address at length; but as this is probably the last time that such an honour will be conferred under the present constitution of the Corporation, we sincerely trust that whatever changes may take place in the constitution of the great municipality, they will still retain the privilege of thus acknowledging the services of distinguished men.

BARON BRUNNOW.

THIS old and distinguished servant of the Imperial Court of Russia left London for Darmstadt, on Wednesday afternoon. His Excellency received his passports on Thursday (last week), having previously had an interview with Lord Clarendon at the Foreign-office; and on the same day he took leave of Count Walewski, as the representative for this purpose of the diplomatic body.

Darmstadt has been chosen as a temporary resting-place, from the connection which exists between the reigning Sovereign of that territory and the Imperial family of Russia, a sister of the Grand Duke having married the Crown Prince.

Baron Brunnow has passed more than thirty years of his life in diplomatic employments under the present Emperor and his predecessor. His Excellency is a German by birth, and his connection with the Russian Court was originally formed at the period of the Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1818. He was subsequently for ten years attached to the Foreign-office at St. Petersburg, as Counsellor, and at the expiration of that period was appointed Minister at the Grand Ducal Court which he now proposes to visit. In August, 1839, Baron Brunnow arrived in London on a special mission relative to the contest which was then raging between the Sultan and his Egyptian subjects. After fulfilling the duties of his mission in a manner most satisfactory to the Court which he represented, Baron Brunnow was despatched to Stuttgart as the Imperial representative at the Court of Wurtemberg; but, in the course of a few weeks, it was found expedient to establish him permanently as Russian Ambassador in London; and for more than fourteen years he has discharged in a manner worthy of the highest praise the duties of his high position. During five different Administrations, the statesmen of every party, while they have respected Baron Brunnow as a faithful and able servant of his Sovereign, enjoyed his friendship. With the late Duke of Wellington his Excellency was for many years on terms of close intimacy, and he was a guest at Walmer only ten days before the death of our great Captain.

His residence in this country is intimately connected with the history of European diplomacy. In 1840 and 1841 Baron Brunnow signed, with Viscount Palmerston, treaties relative to the affairs of the East; in the following year he signed, with the Earl of Aberdeen, a Treaty for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade; in 1852 he signed, with Lord Malmesbury, a Treaty of Succession to the Crown of Denmark; and in the same year a Treaty of Succession to the Crown of Greece.

The late Sir Robert Peel, in a speech delivered after a dinner given by the Russian Company on the 2nd of March, 1844, alluding to the pacific relations which at the time existed between the two countries, spoke in the following terms of high encomium:—

This friendly feeling in favour of amicable relations between Great Britain and Russia stands, too, I trust, on a footing too well secured to be dependent upon any accidental circumstance, or upon the personal character of any man intrusted with high office or authority. But this I must add, that so far as the exertion of any one man, or the agency of any single individual, can contribute to the promotion of this good understanding, the two countries are under the deepest obligations to that distinguished nobleman who is present here this day as the representative of the Russian Empire at the Court of Great Britain. There may have been diplomatists occupying higher diplomatic station, but there never was a man entrusted with the confidence of the Crown who discharged the duties connected with his office in a more honourable or exemplary manner than those duties have been performed by Baron Brunnow. I can undertake to say that there never was a Foreign Minister more zealous for the promotion of the interests of his own country, or more unwilling to make any compromise of its honour, or of anything that could qualify his obligations to watch over the interests of which he is the representative; but, rising above all the petty arts of intrigue, and by the suavity and simplicity of his own conduct, his Excellency has gained the confidence of every Ministry with which he has been called upon to act, and, without sacrificing the interests of his own country, has secured the personal good-will and esteem of all those with whom it has been his lot to act.

Almost all the members of the Imperial family have visited this country during Baron Brunnow's residence in London. The Grand Duke Michael, brother of the reigning Emperor, paid us a visit in 1844, and the Emperor himself arrived in the course of the next year. The Grand Duke Constantine stayed here for a time in 1846; and in the course of the past summer both the daughters of the Czar, and his niece, the Grand Duchess Catherine, have been our guests. The urbanity of the Russian representative, and his thorough familiarity with English life, may probably have conducted in no small degree to create those favourable impressions with which, as is well known, our Imperial visitors have left the British shores.

His Excellency Baron de Brunnow finally left the residence of the Embassy, in Chesham-place, on Wednesday, at half-past three o'clock, and departed by the 4.30 p.m. express train on the South Eastern Railway for Dover, en route to Calais. The authorities of the railway, having become acquainted with the proposed departure of the Baron, made arrangements to receive him with becoming respect. A carriage was set apart for his accommodation, and when the Baron arrived at the station, Captain Barlow, the superintendent of the railway, and Mr. Herbert, the secretary, were in attendance to receive him. The Baron was accompanied from the Embassy by the Baroness and Mdlle. Helen de Brunnow. The secretaries and attachés of the Embassy were also in attendance. Pending the departure of the train, his Excellency and the members of his suite were accommodated in the board-room. As he proceeded along the platform, he was received with the respectful salutations of the few persons assembled. The Baroness Brunnow and Mdlle. de Brunnow took leave of his Excellency just before the train started, and returned to the Embassy, whence they proceeded early in the ensuing week to join his Excellency at Darmstadt.

On reaching Dover the Baron proceeded direct to Birmingham's Royal Ship Hotel, where he intended to pass the night.

The scene of his Excellency's departure is engraved in the Supplement published with the present Number.

PARLIAMENTARY PORTRAITS.

THE EARL OF CARNARVON.

IT is remarkable that, within less than fifty years, four Earls of Carnarvon, in lineal succession, have taken a distinguished part in the debates of the House of Lords.

The present titles of the Carnarvon family are of comparatively recent date. In 1780 its then representative was created Baron Porchester, and the Earldom was granted in 1793. But the family is a branch of the ancient and noble house of Herbert, the Earls of Pembroke and Montgomery; and it immediately springs from Major-General Herbert, the fifth son of the eighth of those Earls. The first Earl of Carnarvon (Baron Porchester) was a man of high patriotic spirit, and uncommon energy and capacity: the second Earl distinguished himself, as a Commoner, in the debates on the Walcheren Expedition, and on other party questions; and, later in life, in the House of Lords, he strenuously opposed the Reform Bill. The late Earl of Carnarvon, the present Earl's father, held a more than respectable place among the authors of his country. His poems, chiefly on Oriental themes, still have their place in libraries, and there are allusions to him in Byron's writings, as well as in some of the diaries that have been published within the last twenty or five-and-twenty years.

Henry Howard Molyneux Herbert, the fourth Earl of Carnarvon, is the son of the third Earl, by the eldest daughter of the late Lord Henry Howard. She was born in the year 1804, and is now the Dowager Countess. She was also the niece of the twelfth Duke of Norfolk. The subject of this memoir was born at 43, Grosvenor-square, on the 24th of June, 1831. He was educated at Eton; and from that ancient and undecaying seat of learning, carried away, like others of his family, numerous and signal distinctions, and a character not only spotless, but bright with still higher moral and intellectual promise. From Eton he went to Christ Church College, Oxford, where he distinguished himself, and, as we have stated, took first honours in classics in the year 1852—himself, Lord Wodehouse, the present Foreign Under-Secretary; and the present Marquis of Lothian, being, it is believed, the only peers who, after accession to their titles, have ever obtained such an honour. Having closed his academical career with a reputation no less conspicuous for moral excellence than for high attainments, he made an Assyrian and Eastern tour in 1853, with his friend

and fellow-collegian, Viscount Sandon, a young nobleman of kindred virtues and accomplishments. Having previously borne the honorary title of Baron Porchester, on the death of his father, in the year 1849, he succeeded to the family titles and estates as Earl of Carnarvon.

The noble Earl's speech, in proposing the Address to Her Majesty in the House of Lords, on Tuesday week, was, as a maiden effort, of more than usual promise. He speaks with self-possession and sufficient

clesiastical, and academical institutions of his country, he desires to extend their usefulness by reforms in accordance with the ends for which they were designed, and by enlargements and gradual reconstructions which shall not impair their foundations, nor divest them of their time-honoured characteristics.

GIGANTIC TREE IN CALIFORNIA.

The discovery of this majestic tree is believed to have been made by the unfortunate Douglas, who, when last in California, wrote thus, in a letter to Sir William Hooker, of a coniferous tree inhabiting that country:—"The great beauty of Californian vegetation is a species of *Taxodium*, which gives the mountains a most peculiar, I was almost going to say awful, appearance—something which plainly tells us we are not in Europe. I have repeatedly measured this tree: 270 feet high, and 32 feet round at three feet from the ground. Some few I saw upwards of 300 feet high, but none in which the thickness was greater than those I have instanced." "What was that tree?" asks the Editor of the *Gardener's Chronicle*. "No seeds or specimens ever reached Europe, although it appears that he (Douglas) possessed both."

The question, however, appears to have been most satisfactorily answered by Messrs. Veitch, of the Exotic Nursery, Chelsea, and of Exeter, who, about six weeks since, received from their excellent collector, Mr. Lobb, seeds and a living specimen of a most remarkable coniferous tree, also Californian; and of which Mr. Lobb furnishes the following account:—

This magnificent evergreen tree from its extraordinary height and large dimensions, may be termed the monarch of the Californian forest. It inhabits a solitary district on the elevated slopes of the Sierra Nevada, near the head waters of the Stanislaus and San Antonio rivers, in lat 38° N., long. 120° 10' W., at an elevation of 5000 feet from the level of the sea. From 80 to 90 trees exist, all within the circuit of a mile, and these varying from 250 feet to 320 feet in height and from 10 to 20 feet in diameter. Their manner of growth is much like *Sequoia* (*Taxodium sempervirens*). Some are solitary, some are in pairs; while some, and not unfrequently, stand three and four together. A tree recently felled, measured about 300 feet in length, with a diameter, including bark, 29 feet 2 inches, at 5 feet from the ground; at 18 feet from the ground it was 1 foot 6 inches through; at 100 feet from the ground, 14 feet; and at 200 feet from the ground, 6 feet 5 inches. The bark is of a pale cinnamon brown, and from 12 to 15 inches in thickness. The branchlets are round, somewhat pendent, and resembling a cypress or juniper. The leaves are pale grass-green; those of the young trees are spreading, with a sharp acuminate point. The cones are about 2½ inches long, and 2 inches across at the thickest part. The trunk of the tree in question was perfectly solid, from the sapwood to the centre; and, judging from the number of concentric rings, its age has been estimated at 3000 years. The wood is light, soft, and of a reddish colour, like redwood or *Taxodium sempervirens*. Of this vegetable monster, 21 feet of the bark, from the lower part of the trunk, have been put in the natural form in San Francisco for exhibition; it there forms a spacious carpeted room, and contains a piano, with seats for forty persons. On one occasion 140 children were admitted without inconvenience.

The Editor of the *Gardener's Chronicle* then illustrates the almost fabulous antiquity of this tree:—

They say that the specimen felled at the junction of the Stanislaus and San Antonio was above 3000 years old; that is to say, it must have been a little plant when Sampson was slaying the Philistines, or Paris running away with Helen, or Æneas carrying off good pater Anchises upon his filial shoulders. And this may very well be true if it does not grow above two inches in diameter in twenty years, which we believe to be the fact.

The Editor infers the plants of Lobb and Douglas to be identical:—

Douglas reached lat. 38° 45' N., and therefore was within the geographical range of Lobb's discovery. But it is quite as possible that he meant some other tree, also of gigantic dimensions; and it is hardly to be imagined that so experienced a traveller would have mistaken a tree with the foliage of a cypress and the cones of a pine for a *Taxodium*, and still less for the species *Sempervirens*. Besides, the slenderness of the specimens he saw is greatly at variance with the colossal proportions of the plant before us. That, at all events, the latter cannot be regarded as a *Sequoia* we have explained in another column; and we think that no one will differ from us in feeling that the most appropriate name to be proposed for the most gigantic tree which has been revealed to us by modern discovery is that of the greatest of modern heroes. Wellington stands as high above his contemporaries as the Californian tree above all the surrounding foresters. Let it, then, bear henceforward the name of *Wellingtonia gigantea*. Emperors and Kings and Princes have their plants, and we must not forget to place in the highest rank among them our own great warrior.

In another column of the *Gardener's Chronicle*, we find the vast Tree thus described:—

WELLINGTONIA GIGANTEA.—Gen. Char.: *Strobilus* oblongus, ligneus; squamis numerosis, cuneatis, truncatis, per apophysis transversæ (ob bracteam æquilongam omnino adnatis) sulcatis, mucrone in medio. *Semina* 7-cu que squame, supra medium pendula, compressa, utrinque alata.—*Folia* alterna, juniperina.

Wellingtonia is a tree with the imbricated scale-like leaves of some Junipers, attached to the branch by a broad base; and when, as happens in the more vigorous shoots, the leaves acquire unusual development, they still are sessile bodies with a triangular section, and no tendency whatever to form a flat lamina. But they are alternate, not opposite. In *Sequoia* and *Sciadopitys*, genera also having alternate leaves, the leaves acquire the expansion of a *Taxus* or *Podocarp*.

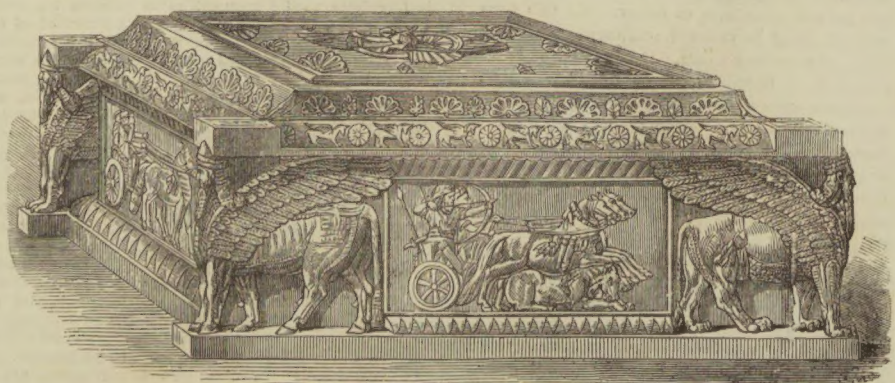


GIGANTIC TREE (*WELLINGTONIA GIGANTEA*), IN CALIFORNIA.

The cones are like those of *Sciadopitys* in size and form, but the bracts, instead of being half free, are so completely consolidated with the strobilar scales as to form but one body, the double nature of which is only discoverable by a transverse furrow along the middle of the truncated terminations, by a mucro, evidently belonging to a bract, situate in the centre of the furrow, and by the double plate of woody matter of which each scale is found to consist when divided longitudinally. In this respect, indeed, *Wellingtonia* corresponds with *Sequoia*; but the strobilar scales in the latter are few, unguiculate, almost peltate, and attached slightly to a weak axis; whereas, in *Wellingtonia* the scales are mere wedges, whose double woody interior communicates with an axis so hard and stout, that a sharp chisel and a forcible blow are necessary to separate them.

The seeds of *Wellingtonia* correspond with Zuccarini's figure and description of those of *Sciadopitys*, both in form, number, and place of insertion upon the scales. *Sequoia* is different, having seeds far less thin, with a corky rather than a membranous wing, fewer in number, and originating just within the edge of the unguiculate scales.

These considerations seem to leave no room for doubt that *Wellingtonia* is an entirely new coniferous form; and, possibly, when its male flowers shall have been seen, still further distinguished by the structure of those parts. In a horticultural point of view, it is impossible to over-estimate the value to Great Britain of such a tree. A lithograph of this tree, executed by Messrs. Day and Son (from which our Engraving is copied), will shortly appear; the original drawing was from nature by Mr. J. M. Lapham.



THE LAYARD BOX.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



THE EARL OF CARNARVON.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BEARD.

fluency; but without that precocious self-confidence which sometimes promises much more than is borne out by subsequent performance. In the arrangement of his topics, and his mode of treating them, he exhibited a comprehensiveness, clearness, and grasp of mind indicative of natural powers, fitting him for future distinction in the arena which birth has opened to him; and those who remember his late father, detected much in his speech that reminded them of the elevated, philosophic, and eloquent character of his oratory. We anticipate much public usefulness from the noble Earl, if, as is probable, he shall hereafter follow the example of so many of our young nobles, of all parties, who have qualified themselves for political life and public service, upon their own personal merits, and irrespective of the aid and influence derived by them from their possession of birth, title, and that greatest gift of all, a favourable *entrée* on the political arena.

Lord Carnarvon is remarkable for self-command, reflection, judgment, and other statesmanlike qualities, that usually belong to a later period of life. Sincere and refined in manners, domestic in habits, courageous in spirit, firm in friendship, and alive to responsibilities of property and station; he is a favourable specimen of a large class which, happily for England, is annually growing larger.

The Earl of Carnarvon is unmarried, and in his twenty-third year. The heir-presumptive to the title is his brother, the Hon. Alan Percy Herbert, who was born in 1836. His aunt, Lady Emily Herbert, is the wife of Mr. Philip Pusey.

His Lordship is a Deputy-Lieutenant and J.P. for the county of Hants, and Captain of the Highclere Troop of Yeomanry, in the well-disciplined North Hants Cavalry regiment commanded by Mr. Lefevre, the Speaker—as efficient in the saddle as in the chair. His principal residence is Highclere, near Newbury, though situate in Hampshire—a domain of the greatest beauty, and in the midst of which the Castle, entirely altered by Sir Charles Barry, records the genius of the architect, as well as the taste and labours of the late lamented Earl. It is of this park that even Cobbett could say, in his "Rural Rides":—"This is, according to my fancy, the prettiest park that I have ever seen." "I like this place better than Fonthill, Blenheim, Stowe, or any other gentleman's grounds that I have seen."

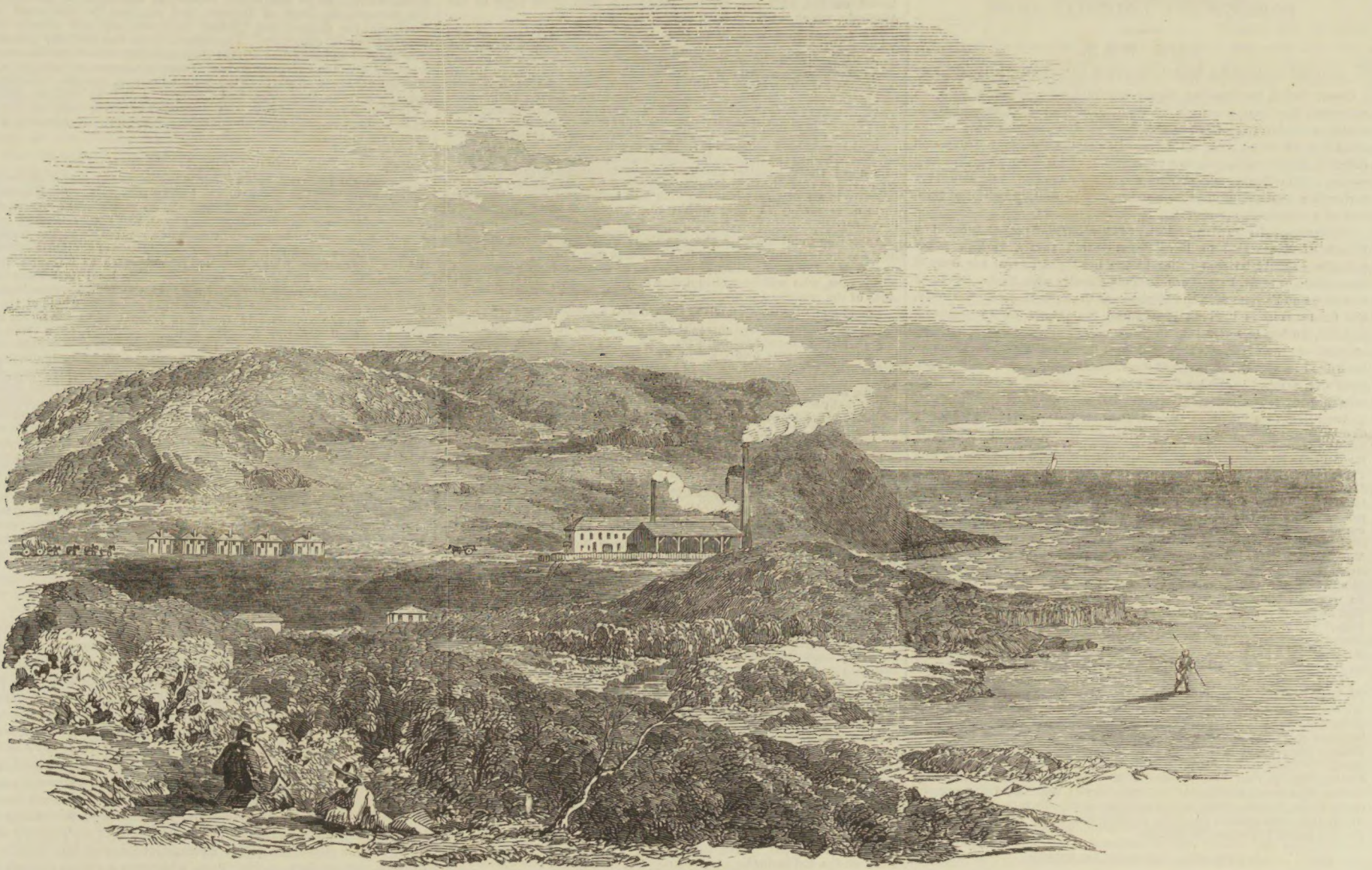
Through his mother (as above referred to), the heiress of the Nottingham Baronet-family of Molyneux, and a daughter of the late Lord Henry Howard, and first cousin of the present Duke of Norfolk, he derives a portion of that immemorial and scarcely-equalled lineage, thus combining the blood of the Howards with the old historic renown and hereditary genius of the Herberts. Amongst his modern female ancestry he can also enumerate the names of Sawyer (Margaret Sawyer, wife of



BARON BRUNNOW.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

the eighth Earl of Pembroke, and sole heiress of Sir Robert Sawyer, the Crown Lawyer, and disinterested advocate of the Seven Bishops, Wyndham (Lady Elizabeth, daughter of the second Earl of Egremont), and Acland (daughter of Lady Harriet Acland, so remarkable for her conjugal devotion in the American war).

In his public opinions, Lord Carnarvon is represented to be Liberal Conservative and comprehensive. Sincerely attached to the political, ec.



THE BURWOOD COPPER-SMELTING WORKS.

THE BURWOOD COPPER-WORKS.

THESE extensive works adjoin the property of the Australian Agricultural Company, and are situated 65 miles north of Sydney, Port Jackson, and three miles south of Newcastle.

The accompanying Illustrations represent the general situation of the works. Surrounded by hills which shut out every view but that of the ocean, the buildings and grounds comprise one hundred acres of land, and form an amphitheatre that entirely prevents the approach of the vapour evolved by the furnaces to the populous town of Newcastle.

The system of smelting is the same as that pursued at Swansea, except, that from the favourable peculiarities of Australian ore, three processes, instead of eight or ten, produce copper, and that of the purest quality. Some of this copper may be seen at Messrs. Gore and Co.'s Counting-house, London. As the furnace stands within 250 yards of the eastern shore of the Pacific, the proprietors of the works, instead of being incumbered with slag, are enabled to deposit it, without expense, in the ocean; and they contemplate, in process of time, the extension of the tip or bark (as this deposit is called) into a quay, that will enable them to receive and discharge cargoes at the works, without entering the port of Newcastle, to and from which the ore and copper are at this time conveyed in drays.

Not the least singular feature in this property is, that the hills which surround the works contain the richest seams of coal—in some instances

eleven feet in thickness, and generally lying somewhat above the level of Newcastle and of the low country. There is already a tunnel, 280 yards long, large enough for the passage of a horse and cart through one of the hills; and the owners of the Copper-Works are driving another tunnel through a seam of coals on the level of their works, which will enable them to convey their produce to and from Newcastle by tram.

Copper mines of extraordinary richness are worked in many parts of the colony, and may be said to abound on the southern and western shores of New South Wales, and throughout the colonies of South Australia and New Zealand. The ores from the latter places, though difficult to smelt by themselves, are admirably suited for reduction when mixed together; and, as coal has not hitherto been found in the places where they are dug, a very large part of the ore must, at no distant date, be forwarded to Newcastle by ships, which could there receive return cargoes of coal.

Owing to the situation of the Burwood Copper-Works, sand and clay to an unlimited extent are found on the spot: and nothing is wanted to make the work one of the most complete and flourishing manufactories, and to enable the proprietors to keep pace with the increasing demands of the colonists, but the erection of rolling mills for converting the copper into sheathing and bolts for ship-building, and the various purposes for which copper is used in the Australian colonies.

The works have been for some time in active operation, and produce from twenty to thirty tons of refined copper weekly; and when the mania for the precarious labours of the gold fields shall have given place to more rational occupations, or an industrious population shall have found in the Australian colonies a refuge from the pressure under which they have been reared, the Burwood Copper-Works cannot fail to become an object of national interest.

"THE PARIS AND LONDON" STEAMER.

THIS handsome vessel has been constructed for conveying merchandise directly between the capitals of France and England. She was built at Nantes; works by sails, or steam, or both combined; has an engine of 30-horse power, with screw machinery; is 100 feet in length, and of 150 tons burden. By lowering the masts she passes with facility under bridges. She came from Rouen up to Paris, against the current, in twenty-nine hours, stopping at Meulan, at Poissy, and at Neuilly. The commander is Captain Napoleon Briand, with a crew of nine men.

The *Paris and London* steamed up the Seine, passed the Quai d'Orsay in fine style. When she came within view of the flag on the Tuileries she fired a salute of 21 cannons. Shortly afterwards she passed under the Pont-Royal, and the Bridge of the Carroussel, and cast anchor at the Quay of Saint Nicholas du Louvre.



"THE PARIS AND LONDON" STEAMER.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

THE WAR.

COUNT ORLOFF'S MISSION—THE RUSSIAN PROJECT.

Count Orloff, the Russian Envoy-Extraordinary, has met with an extremely kind reception from the Emperor of Austria, to whom he presented an autograph letter from his Sovereign on the 29th ult. On the same day he dined with the Imperial family, although he was still suffering from swollen feet, as a consequence of his long and fatiguing journey. The Envoy, who may be about sixty-four or sixty-five, is a favourable specimen of Russian nobility, being tall, powerfully built, and of a "majestic presence."

The terms of the Russian project, or rather counter project, brought by Count Orloff, are said to have been:—First, that a Turkish plenipotentiary should be sent either to the head quarters of the army of occupation, or to St. Petersburg, to treat directly with Russia, but to be free to see and advise with the Ministers of the Four Powers. Secondly, the former treaties between Russia and the Porte to be renewed. Thirdly, Turkey to enter into an engagement with respect to political refugees—to the effect, it is supposed, that they should not henceforth be harboured in the Ottoman dominions. And lastly, a declaration from the Porte, couched in similar terms to the Menschikoff ultimatum, with reference to the protection of the Greek Christians.

According to another statement, the Count demanded that Austria should pledge herself to remain neutral, under any circumstances that might arise. The Emperor is said to have met this demand by asking for a pledge on the part of Russia with respect to the evacuation of the Principalities, and also for a promise that the Czar would not cross the Danube, nor seek any increase of territory at the expense of Turkey. Count Orloff was unable to give any such undertaking; and the Emperor, therefore, reserved to himself full liberty to act as circumstances might dictate, with due regard to the interest and dignity of Austria. The Russian Envoy Extraordinary did not, however, think fit to quit Vienna even after this rebuff, and, under pretence of a trifling indisposition, he delayed his departure for a few days. It was inferred from this circumstance that Count Orloff's first proposal was not his last, that he was still trifling with the representatives of the four Courts, and that he might possibly have discretionary powers to treat on a wider basis. The latest reports would give no countenance to this supposition. Finding that he could make no impression on the Emperor, or his Ministers, it was said that Count Orloff would leave for St. Petersburg on Wednesday or Thursday.

It was supposed at one time that he would have paid a visit to Berlin; but it turns out that the Russian proposal to that Court was made by M. de Budberg, the Russian Minister at Berlin. It was nothing less than a demand that Prussia should conclude an alliance of the most intimate character with the Emperor Nicholas, who offered to protect Prussia from the consequences of such an engagement by sea and by land. To this insolent proposition M. de Manteuffel replied with becoming dignity, that Prussia stood in no need of foreign protection, and would enter into no alliances on such terms; but that, under any circumstances, Russia would not be capable of affording protection to her coasts and ports against the fleets of England, or to the Rhenish provinces against the armies of France.

THE WAR ON THE DANUBE.

Accounts received at Vienna on Tuesday, state that a sanguinary action had taken place near Giurgevo, with a great loss on both sides. Three thousand Turks crossed the Danube, drove in the Russian advanced posts, attacked the town, and then retired.

Since the arrival of General Schilder in Wallachia a retrograde movement of the Russian forces has been observed. Preparations have been made to transfer the headquarters from Radovan to Slatina, and engineers have appeared at the latter place to mark out a new camp. Since the battle of Citate the Turks seem inclined to take up the offensive upon all fortified points of the Danube; whilst the Russians, probably awaiting fresh reinforcements, have taken up a rather defensive position. It is reported that 50,000 Turks crossed the Danube near Radova, but Russian reinforcements having arrived, they returned to their former position. The order to close up in a narrower semicircle had not as yet been issued to the Russian troops, as the condition of the soil at the present season of the year is such as to offer almost insuperable obstacles to active operations.

The Russian authorities are said to have ordered the formation of a Greco-Sclavonian Legion, which is to enter Turkey, to excite the Christian population of the empire to revolt. Four offices have been opened at Bucharest to receive enlistments. The advantages offered to volunteers are calculated to induce many foreigners residing in the country, where they lead a wretched existence, to take service in the Greco-Sclavonian Legion; but it is questionable whether they can be relied upon when the tug of war comes. Colonels are promised 5 ducats per day; majors, 3 ducats; captains, 2; subaltern officers, 1; and soldiers, 2 swanzigs. The arms are to be supplied by Russia. At the suggestion of the Muscovite authorities, lists of subscriptions are to be circulated; and the nobility, merchants, and bourgeois will be invited to assist the defenders of the country.

The last letter from the Kalish correspondent of the *Lloyd* is couched in extremely warlike language. The army of occupation, already reinforced by the corps of General Osten-Sacken, and expecting the arrival of that under General Tschoudaieff, will soon assume the offensive. A part of the 6th corps—General Tschoudaieff's—has already reached the Dniester, and three regiments coming from Moscow have passed the frontiers of Little Russia (including the Governments of Kiew, Tcherni-joff, Pultowa, Podolia, and Volhynia). The reserve troops are also taking the same road. As soon as these forces have reached the frontiers of Bessarabia, the remainder of Osten-Sacken's corps will advance to the Danube, "and it does not admit of a doubt that when the weather becomes milder the Danube will be crossed at two points."

The Russian army in the Principalities and in Bessarabia, is said to consist of a total force of 156,328 men, and 520 cannon, of which 72 are of large calibre.

SEBASTOPOL AND ODESSA.

News from Sebastopol, *via* Bucharest, to the 20th ult., has been received at Vienna. Up to that day the notification on the part of the protecting squadrons, that they had received orders to enjoin every Russian cruiser to return to Sebastopol, had not been officially received. The Admiralty had been informed of it, however, in a private manner, and had instantly sent off couriers to St. Petersburg with a request for further orders.

The son of Count Nesselrode, who is Prince Menschikoff's Attaché, has arrived at Odessa. The forts of Sebastopol are being provided with more ordnance. Osman Pacha, the prisoner of war, is now out of danger, but can never hope to be fully reinstated in health. Russian steamers, which, at the beginning of February, transported heavy ordnance from Odessa to Bessarabia for the Danubian army, have since returned, their passage there and back not having been attended with the least risk.

RETURN OF THE FLEETS TO BEICOS.

Letters from Constantinople to the 25th ult., inform us that the fleets were still at anchor at Beicos. Her Majesty's ship *Fury* had just returned from the direction of Odessa, whither she had been despatched to look after British interests, but the ice prevented her from approaching the place.

A memorial, signed by twenty-three British merchant captains, had been presented to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe by two of their number, showing that the present uncertain state of affairs was very detrimental to their employers, and asking whether there was any sufficient reason why they should not proceed to their different destinations in the Black Sea. The substance of the answer was that there was no reason why they should not do so at that moment; but that it was impossible to foretell what each day might bring forth.

The return of the combined fleets to Beicos, from their cruise in the Black Sea, though contemporaneous with the departure from the Bosphorus of a Turkish flotilla for Anatolia, does not seem to have been merely brought about for the purpose of conveying the flotilla, although it is likely that the escort will be offered and accepted. It appears that the Admiralty consider that their duty of protection can be discharged at Beicos as well as at Sinope. On Monday, the 16th ult., the *Caton* arrived at Constantinople from the Black Sea, with despatches for Lord Redcliffe and M. Baraguay d'Hilliers, announcing the intention of the Admiralty to return with their fleets to Beicos. The Ambassadors met in conference next day in consequence of this information, and the *Samson*

tarted on the 18th ult. for the Black Sea, with their reply to the Admirals, which is said to have been as follows:—

The Ambassadors express surprise at the sudden resolution of the Admirals, more particularly at the present moment, when a Turkish steam flotilla is on the point of starting with ammunition and other stores for the army of Anatolia. The orders of the French and British Governments, which reach d this by the *Caton*, about ten days ago, were formal and precise, respecting the protection to be afforded by the combined fleets to the Ottoman flag and territory, and the attention of both Admirals is again called to the stringent nature of these instructions, which had been duly notified to them. The Admirals, it would appear, consider that the measures entrusted to their execution may be equally well effected, whether the force under their command be stationed at Beicos or Sinope. This is a matter which must entirely depend on their own judgment, and on them the responsibility will rest. The Ambassadors decline to interfere in all matters connected with nautical experience, and confine themselves merely to those within the sphere of their political department.

According to all accounts the combined squadrons did not encounter bad weather during their stay in the Black Sea, nor did they suffer in any way. The reinforcements preparing at Constantinople amount to 30,000 men, who will be sent in different detachments, escorted by divisions of the combined fleets—French, English, and Ottoman.

The *Presse*, of Vienna, quoting from *L'Ami du Soldat*, says:—

The consequences of the entrance of the combined fleets into the Black Sea are already showing themselves. Fourteen thousand men have been landed at Holiburgas, below Varna, from on board transports, which had previously been carefully watched by the Russians; now, the Turks are completely at liberty in the Euxine. These 14,000 men are to move upon Varna, and reinforcements from Constantinople and Adrianople are to take the same direction. The Ottoman forces, from Prgona to Nicopolis amount to 18,000 men, over and above a reserve of 36,000 at Sophia.

MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN FRANCE.

The military preparations in France are being pushed on with great energy. Decrees are expected, calling out the remaining moiety of the contingents of 1849 and 1850, and the whole of the contingent of 1853—a total of 160,000 men; so that in a short time the army will be raised to 550,000 effective men. One manufacturing establishment in Paris has received an order for the supply of 150,000 haversacs, and another for 26,000 shirts, and other minor establishments have similar orders in proportion. An order has been given to an extensive ironmaster in the department of the Pas de Calais for 3,000,000 cannon-balls, of various dimensions.

Large orders have also been given for an immense supply of harness and similar equipments for the artillery. Letters from the departments announce that the young soldiers are already en route for their destination. In some branches of the military service the Emperor does not allow of repose either by night or day. General Pelissier has returned to Africa to organise a body of from 20,000 to 25,000 men—the flower of the army of Africa; and a superior officer has asserted that in eight days divisions of the army in France as well as Africa would be ready for embarkation. The exact amount of the force to be sent on that service is not stated; but, in the opinion of persons competent to judge, not less than 70,000 or 80,000 Anglo-French troops would suffice, with the co-operation of the Turkish army to do the work effectively. Candia has been already spoken of for a dépôt; but this island is considered as rather too distant from Turkey, and Mitylene is more likely to be thought suitable.

The French Atlantic squadron, which is stationed at Brest, has received orders to put to sea immediately. The order was received at Brest on the 3rd instant. It is confidently stated that this squadron is to proceed to Toulon, to Algiers, and to Civita Vecchia, for the purpose of embarking the troops which are to form the expeditionary column about to proceed to Constantinople. The provisions for the expedition have already been contracted for.

DEPARTURE OF M. DE KISSELEFF.

M. de Kisseleff left his hotel for the station of the Northern Railroad on Monday, and went by the mail train to Brussels. It is said that his absence is not likely to be of very long duration, as he took with him only a small portion of his personal effects; the other part was sent to the house of a friend in the Rue de Suresnes.

Although all diplomatic relations with the French Government are said to be at an end, the Russian Consul General remains at Paris to take charge of any urgent business, and communicate with the subjects of Russia who remain there, but who are not very numerous. A few have been recalled by special order of the Emperor of Russia, but no general order has been given. It was stated by one of the papers that, before leaving Paris, M. de Kisseleff addressed a circular to the Russians residing in the capital, requiring them, in the name of the Czar's Government, to leave France within the next month and return to Russia, on pain of Imperial displeasure; but this has been contradicted.

A RUSSIAN CONSPIRACY IN TURKEY.

In consequence of the arrest of Father Anastasius, a Greek priest at Widdin, a conspiracy has been discovered, in which Greek and Russian agents are mixed up. It appears that this Father Anastasius disclosed the secrets of the conspiracy. He is a man who has travelled through almost every part of the Turkish Empire—Bulgaria, Montenegro, and Bessarabia; having also been frequently in Russia, and of late having visited Athens. His capture led to the arrest of Baron Oelsner, a Russian officer, once the aide-de-camp of General Lüders. The Ottoman police are every active in making every research. The object of the conspiracy was to stir up the Greek populations of the empire to revolt, their chief places for meeting being Athens, Constantinople, and Bucharest.

RUSSIAN INTRIGUE IN SERBIA.

The intelligence from Servia declares that the Russians were exerting themselves to prevent the publication of the Imperial firman which Ethem Pacha had carried there. Prince Alexander is made to observe, by the Russian agents, that this confirmation of the privileges of Servia is a dangerous gift, in this respect, that at a later period the Porte could avail itself of this right of confirmation to pretend to that of revocation. News from Belgrade confirm this information, and state that Prince Alexander had made his reserves in the sense just mentioned. The condition of the Principalities is said to be deplorable, the exactions of the Russians being something worse than those heard of before from those invaders. The inhabitants have neglected to prepare for the sowing of their corn, and see their cattle carried from their farms every day.

RENEWED ATTEMPTS AT NEGOTIATION.

The *New Prussian Gazette* asserts that, notwithstanding all that has passed, and in view of the non-acceptance of the second Vienna project, France and England have sent another peace proposal to St. Petersburg. According to the dates given by the paper quoted, the messenger should have reached the Russian capital at the commencement of this week. It is certain, however (says the *Gazette*), that the Emperor has declared, by Count Orloff, that he will insist on the acceptance, by Turkey, of the engagements inscribed in the first Vienna note.

A rumour is revived of an attempted offer at mediation being made by King Leopold, founded on a declaration, attributed to Count Orloff, that his Imperial master would listen to overtures, but upon what basis is not stated.

THE CZAR GIVING WAY.

The *National Gazette* of Berlin, publishes a letter from St. Petersburg, of the 20th ult., in which the writer states that the war party was losing ground, and that Count de Nesselrode has resumed his former influence. He mentions a rumour that the Emperor of Russia has sent an autograph letter to the Queen of England full of professions of a desire for peace. He adds that the Emperor has written to General Werewkin, ordering him, as a means of preventing an attack on Tiflis by Schamyl, to march against the Tschetschna. The last advices from St. Petersburg affirm that the Czar is suffering from erysipelas; and that, whether the illness was real or feigned, he had not been visible for ten days. With every document of consequence, it was matter of special deliberation whether it should be laid before him or no.

TURKEY.

The *Preussische Correspondenz* furnishes some news from Beyrout up to 7th January. At that date it was known there that political events in Persia had taken a very unexpected turn. As soon as the intention of the Persian Government to promote the views of Russia against Turkey became known, the people made its aversion to an alliance against their old allies known in such an unmistakeable manner that the Shah's counsellors, intimidated by the storm, and fearing an insurrection, required further assurances from the Russian Envoy; he was called upon to give the same assurances in writing as he had already

given orally. As he was either unable or unwilling to comply with this demand, the Court of Teheran had resumed its diplomatic relations with the English and Turkish Ministers, who had already made preparations for departure. The state of Syria was perfectly peaceable. The regular and irregular troops were on their march to the eastern frontier, with the exception of the Druses' contingent of infantry, which was not yet ready to start. Five hundred men of the sole battalion of infantry now in Damascus, had proffered a written petition, praying to be sent to the seat of war, and a number of young men in Beyrout have, without waiting for their parents' leave, left their homes and followed the troops.

DANGEROUS CONDITION OF ITALY.

The more the probabilities of war increase, the greater is the fermentation throughout the whole of the Italian peninsula. At Naples, the party who desire a change of dynasty, no matter what, provided the Bourbons are overthrown, are in movement, and their emissaries endeavour to gain over the army. The agitation observable in the Romagna and the Marches has prevented the concentration of the Austrian troops. In the towns from which they had retired—such as Ravenna, for instance—disorders immediately occurred. The local authorities have been under the necessity of requesting that the foreign troops shall not quit their garrisons, and the Austrians still occupy the whole of the line from Bologna to Ancona. In the same proportion as the public mind grows excited by the rumours and probabilities of a European war, the governments of Italy become alarmed. The King of Naples, who is body and soul devoted to Russia, ardently desires the triumph of the Czar; for on the success of Russia lies his hope of the restoration of his French cousins, the Bourbons. The Grand Duke of Tuscany, and the Dukes of Parma and Modena, tremble at the name of war; for they have neither moral nor material force to defend themselves. The Court of Rome is divided on the great question of the day. The Pope and several of the Cardinals apprehend the aggrandisement of Russia, because it would be the triumph of the Greek Church—of a schismatic religion, which would aim at the overthrow of Catholicism; while Cardinal Autorelli, the Secretary of State, and all the members of the Pontifical Government who are only interested in the political question, hold good for Russia. The whole of these Governments are indebted for their existence to foreign bayonets; yet if a general war should follow the actual crisis, even foreign occupation would fail to prevent a movement in Italy, and above all in Lombardy and the Romagna.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

The departure of M. de Kisseleff has, of course, marked the certainty of the approaching rupture yet more decidedly than any of the preceding symptoms. M. de Kisseleff's preparations were all made to leave Paris, on Friday last, when, a few hours before that settled for his departure, he received a summons to the Tuileries. He there had a private interview with the Emperor of some length—the fact, though not the substance, of which becoming known at the Bourse, caused a temporary rise. We are informed, on what we have reason to believe to be excellent authority, that this interview was almost entirely one of a personal nature; that as little as possible of the question causing the rupture between France and Russia was entered upon, and that both parties expressed their mutual personal good-will, and their regret at the necessity of M. de Kisseleff's departure. This circumstance caused the delay in the Russian Ambassador's quitting Paris, which was a subject of much comment and speculation, though only deferred from Friday morning till Saturday night. It is said that, previous to his departure, M. de Kisseleff despatched circulars to his compatriots residing in Paris, intimating the necessity of their return to Russia, but without fixing any precise period for the fulfilment of the injunction.

It was reported that there was some probability of the Prince Napoleon continuing his journey from Belgium into Sweden: this rumour, which, however, did not receive much credence, is now set at rest by his return to Paris. The probability of his visit to the King of the Belgians being returned by the Duke and Duchess de Brabant, is a good deal talked of here.

Much excitement has been caused here by the false version of the Queen's Speech, published by the *Times*, and translated from thence into nearly all the Continental journals. The phrase of marching against the "common enemy," had already, before the appearance of the real Speech, been the subject of much surprise, almost amounting to doubt, thus employed before any actual rupture or declaration of war had taken place; and yet, notwithstanding this, there were some who asserted that the phrase had been employed, and that the paragraph which contained it had been suppressed by order in the translation published in France.

War or no war, however, the Court seems resolved to do its best to make up for the general stagnation of society in the way of fêtes and receptions, and ball succeeds ball in rapid succession. The approaching grand *bal costumé* is the subject of much preparation and expectation. Among other quadrilles is one to be led by the Princesse Mathilde—an "Olympic Quadrille," in which, however, the rôle of Venus is to be "left out by particular desire," no lady having been found willing to undertake a part so trying and equivocal. We have heard it whispered—and we pass the whisper on to you, dear reader—that the *Chef de l'Etat* was extremely desirous that an English lady, much admired at the Court, should accept it; but that this desire was overruled by considerations which it is not our province to enter upon. The Princesse Mathilde is to appear as Juno. Another quadrille at this ball—to which dominoes are to be admitted, but no other exception whatever to the rule, those who do not choose to appear in costume being at liberty to decline the invitation—is to represent the "Seasons," an easier and more *convenable* style of attire, for a Court ball.

A commission has been formed for the erection of a monument to M. Visconti.

A plan is, it is reported, decided upon for the establishment of a night guard in Paris, on the system of the London watchmen. Why adopt an institution that the advance of improvement has exploded, instead of accepting the substitute that that advance has furnished—the present system of police as established in England? Some such arrangement is much required, and would be found to add much to the convenience and security of the public.

Preparations are being made here, as at Rome, for fêtes for the beatification of the Polish Jesuit Bobola, murdered by the Cossacks, to be held at the houses of the order to which he belonged. Various discourses will be pronounced on these occasions; principally recitals of, and discussions on, schismatic persecutions, which will excite much bitterness, and do, as it appears to us, little good.

The celebrated preacher, the *père Ravignan*, had an interview some time since with Louis Napoleon, the substance of which has but lately transpired. The reverend father, it appears, came to protest against the suppression of the College of St. Michel, closed on accusation of holding Socialist principles. The Emperor received M. Ravignan with extreme courtesy, and is even said to have promised to use the utmost circumspection in the use of such measures in future. He, at the same time, complained much of the existence of such tendencies in various Jesuit colleges, especially in the south; and declared the necessity of the adoption of some mode of repression to the discourses of certain of the preachers.

A plan proposed some time since, is, it is said, shortly to be carried out, for the erection of a new theatre in the Rue de Rivoli, entitled *Le Théâtre du Peuple*. At this theatre are to be performed only pieces of the most unquestionable morality, and such as are calculated to raise the taste and morals of the public, to excite an admiration for virtue, duty, and true heroism, and to counteract, as far as possible, the vicious tendencies of but too many of the dramatic works of the day. It appears that even the Archbishop of Paris and the high clergy has

warmly interested themselves in the affair, and are endeavouring to obtain the privilege for the theatre, and to find the necessary capital for its erection and support. Already several persons of weight and note are interesting themselves in the matter; and it is expected that in about seven months the building will be constructed. The project is certainly one deserving of all praise and encouragement; but we fear that the vitiated taste of the day, accustomed to highly-seasoned viands, will with difficulty accommodate itself to the purer, plainer, and more wholesome food thus offered it; and that much time, pains, patience, and money must be spent ere the theatre can be made in any degree to attain its object.

The new piece of Madame de Girardin, "La Joie fait Peur," is in active rehearsal at the Théâtre Français, and is expected to appear on Saturday next. The Gymnase having found a *remplaçant* for Bressant (engaged at the Français) in M. Berton, lately arrived from Russia, the representations of "Diana de Lys," have not been interrupted. Berton in an actor of great taste, talent, and spirit, and no mean substitute for his predecessor in the rôle. The Opéra Comique is preparing for the representation of the opera of Meyerbeer, "l'Etoile du Nord," of which great things are anticipated.

Two volumes—one original, the other a reprint—from the pen of one of the finest observers of modern manners, and most brilliant of modern writers and conversationalists, Madame Emile de Girardin, have just made their appearance. The former, "Le Marquis de Fontanges," is a fable, a critique on the society of the day, written with all the verve, the finesse, and the purity of style which distinguish the pen of this highly gifted woman. The other, "Le Vicomte de Launay," is a collection of those brilliant and sparkling *Courriers de Paris*, published some few years since under that signature, and which never failed to excite the utmost interest.

The prevailing impression in Paris is, that, in case of such an emergency as the Russians threatening to extend their operations by land against Turkey, England and France will send a force to her assistance. The next question is as to the mode of conveying that force, or the route it would take. The plan suggested by the Emperor, which is said to have been approved on military authority, and not rejected by the English Government, is, that the division to be sent to the East shall consist of from 70,000 to 80,000 men; 50,000 or 60,000 to be furnished by France, 15,000 or 20,000 by England. Of the French contingent, 25,000 or 30,000 men, indigenous troops, or of men well hardened to the climate, are to proceed from Africa; the remainder from the army in France. The body thus composed will be transported to Civita Vecchia, and march overland to Ancona. If Austria permit them to land in one of her ports in the Adriatic, so much the better; if not, they will disembark in a Turkish port lower down, then march to Servia, and then to wherever their services may be required, or would be most available. With the Austrians in Italy, where so much fermentation exists at this moment, with Hungary discontented on one hand and Lombardy on the other, the political consequences of such a move would, undoubtedly, be very great.

Prince Napoleon's mission to Brussels is described as having been very successful. In the course of his interview with the King of the Belgians, the Prince expressed the satisfaction of his cousin, the Emperor of the French, that a more friendly feeling had lately grown up between the Belgian and French Governments. He is said to have added that, as hostilities were probable between France and Russia, the Emperor Napoleon wished to be assured of the attitude which Belgium would assume in such an emergency; that his Belgian Majesty had at his disposal 100,000 troops, and in the event (improbable though it be) of Prussia taking part with Russia, 50,000 Belgian might be sent to the Prussian frontier; that the Emperor did not wish any force to be sent to the French frontier, but that the force in question should guard the Prussian. To that proposition it is added that the King assented. With respect to the fortresses along the French line, the wish was expressed that they should be in part reduced; and to that also his Majesty is said to have assented. The Prince suggested that, as King Leopold was a constitutional King, it would be necessary to have the sanction of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the arrangement. The Minister was sent for, and his approval was given to the proposed arrangement. Such, it is stated, was the object and result of Prince Napoleon's mission.

GERMANY.

In connection with the collective declaration of neutrality to be made by the German Bund, which Russia has so unsuccessfully striven to bring to maturity through the agency, first of Austria and then of Bavaria and the lesser States, attention has been called to Herr von der Pfordten's recent receipt of the Grand Cross of the Holy Alexander Newski Order from the Emperor of Russia, and to the fact that the same honour has also been conferred on Herr von Beust, the Premier of Saxony, who had co-operated with Herr von der Pfordten for the furtherance of anti-national Russian policy in Germany. This order is the highest but one in the Russian Empire, and is usually conferred only on crowned heads, Sovereign Princes, or the Prime Ministers of the great Powers. Its bestowal on the two above named diplomats, taken in connection with the recently published work of Herr von Grotzsch, throws a light on the present policy of Russia towards Germany. This work, entitled the "European Pentarchy," represents it as the end and aim of Russia's policy to consolidate the interests of the minor States of central Germany, so as to obtain a counterpoise to Austria and Prussia.

SWEDEN.

A Russian courier arrived at Stockholm on the 2nd inst., with important despatches to the Russian Embassy on the neutrality question; and the Minister of the Czar (Daskoff) has had an audience of King Oscar on the subject. The details have not transpired.

DENMARK.

It is announced by the Danish papers that an order has been given to fit out three frigates, three corvettes, three brigs, and five steamers, and that inquiries have been instituted by the Minister of War as to the possibility of providing quarters for a certain number of troops. The Swedish Government have, it is said, in contemplation to send 15,000 men into Gothland, and to establish an army on the western coast.

AMERICA.

Letters and papers from New York to the 25th ult. have been received by the *Europa*, which arrived at Liverpool on Monday. From Washington we learn that Senator Douglas's new Nebraska bill had thrown a large number of Congress men into the greatest state of excitement. Several caucuses had been held, but no definite line of action had been determined upon till the generality of the northern and western members had ascertained the views of their constituents. In the Executive Session of the Senate, the International Copyright Treaty was reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without any recommendation, but with an amendment, providing that the protection afforded to foreign authors, shall apply only to their books reprinted in America.

A terrible tornado swept over the state of Ohio on the 20th ult. Its track was about half a mile in width, and it demolished almost everything it encountered. The town of Brandon was almost entirely destroyed. The gale was accompanied by terrific lightning and heavy rain, and followed by such a rapid rising of the streams of water, that the town of Mount Vernon was partly inundated, and several persons lost their lives.

Judah Touro, estimated to have been worth from a million to a million and a half of dollars, died lately at New Orleans. The bulk of his property is reported to have been left to different charitable institutions in that city.

The *San Francisco Herald* of the 31st December, states the registered shipments of gold last year from California to have been 54,906,957 dols., against 45,779,000 dols. in 1852, and 34,492,000 dols. in 1851, showing an annual increase of about 10,000,000 dols.; but a great deal is taken away unrecorded by passengers, for the quantity of Californian gold coined at the United States Mint was nearly 56,000,000 dols. in 1851, 54,000,000 dols. in 1852, and nearly 40,000,000 dols. in the first seven months of last year to July 30. Great numbers of Chinamen had gone to Shasta, and the miners there were talking of rising to expel them. There was a growing feeling that some legislation would be necessary to define more clearly the rights of miners and mining companies. The population of California was composed on the 30th of December of 215,000 Americans, 25,000 Germans, 25,000 French, 17,000 Chinamen, 20,000 of Spanish blood, 5000 miscellaneous foreigners, 20,000 Indians, and 2500 negroes. Of these about 65,000 are women, and, perhaps, 30,000 children.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

SIR WILLIAM BAILLIE, BART., OF POLKEMMET.

THE decease of this Baronet occurred on the 28th ult., at Perth. Sir William, the eldest son of the late William Baillie, Esq., an eminent Advocate (afterwards a Lord of Session as Lord Polkemma), by Margaret, his wife, daughter of Sir James Colquhoun, Bart., of Luss, was born in 1784, and became a Baronet by creation in 1823. He married 25th April, 1815, Mary-Lyon, youngest daughter of J. Denistoun, Esq., of Colgrain, Dumbartonshire (co-heir of her mother Margaret, daughter of Allan Dregghorn, of Blochairn), and leaves several sons and daughters: of the former, the eldest, now Sir William Baillie, the second Baronet of Polkemma, sat in Parliament for Linlithgowshire from 1845 to 1847.



SIR JOHN STRACHAN, BART.

THE death of this Baronet, at the age of seventy, occurred at his residence, Clifden, Teignmouth, Devon, after a long and painful illness, on the 28th ult. He was the eldest son of the late Sir John Strachan, of Thornton, who succeeded to the baronetcy as the nearest and lawful male heir of Sir Alexander Strachan, of Thornton, who was created a Baronet by King Charles I., in 1625. The sixth inheritor of the title was the distinguished Admiral, Sir Richard Strachan, G.C.B.



Sir John Strachan, the subject of this notice, succeeded his father, 9th June, 1844. He married, Mary Ann, daughter of Isaac Elton, Esq., of White Staunton House, county Somerset, but had no issue.

AUBREY WILLIAM BEAUCLERK, ESQ., OF ARDGLASS CASTLE, COUNTY DOW, AND OF ST. LEONARD'S FOREST, SUSSEX.

THIS gentleman, formerly a Major in the army, and member in two Parliaments for East Surrey, died on the 1st inst., at his seat, Ardglass Castle, aged fifty-four. He was son and heir of the late Charles George Beauclerk, Esq., of St. Leonard's Forest, and grandson of Topham Beauclerk, Esq., whose father, Lord Sydney Beauclerk, was fifth son of Charles, first Duke of St. Albans, by Diana, his wife, daughter and sole heir of Aubrey de Vere, 20th Earl of Oxford. Major Beauclerk married, first, 13th February, 1834, Ida, third daughter of Sir C. Forster Goring, Bart.; and, secondly, 7th December, 1840, Rosa, daughter of Joshua Robinson, Esq.; by the former of whom (who was accidentally drowned April 23rd, 1838) he leaves a son and successor, Aubrey de Vere, and other issue.



SIR HENRY MIERS ELLIOT, K.C.B.

THIS able public servant, Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, died on the 20th December, at Simon's Town, Cape of Good Hope, aged forty-five. He was third son of the late John Elliot, Esq., of Pimlico-lodge, Colonel-Commandant of the Westminster Volunteer Corps, and at an early age entered the Civil Service of the East India Company, in which he attained to great eminence, and received the order of the Bath for his services during the Sikh war. Sir Henry was author of a "Biographical Index to the Histories of Mohammedan India." He married Miss Cowell, daughter of William Cowell, Esq., E.I.C. Civil Service.

SILVIO PELLICO.

SILVIO PELLICO, an able Italian poet, whom a memorable imprisonment has made everywhere a theme of pity, came of a poetic race. His father, Honorato Pellico, who held a situation in the Piedmontese Post-office, had courted the Muses with some success; and Silvio's brother, Luigi Pellico, rose to note as a popular writer of comic dramas in verse. Silvio Pellico was born in Piedmont in 1789, at Saluces, where his father's appointment was. From his earliest boyhood, Silvio evinced a taste and talent for tragic composition; and he and his brother, when youths, used to recite their effusions on a little stage, which they had constructed in their father's house. Honorato Pellico was removed to the post-office at Turin: here his sons also resided with him—for he was a family bound together by the closest ties of sympathy and affection. After accompanying his mother on a visit to a cousin in France, Silvio Pellico left his home to settle at Milan, where his brilliant verse soon established his reputation. In 1819, he published his magnificent tragedy of "Francesca de Rimini"; and in the same year he translated his friend Lord Byron's "Manfred." He now took rank among the highest dramatic poets of his day, when, unfortunately, not content with the honours of a bard, he engaged in politics as well as verse—a dangerous venture under the Austrian rule that weighs upon Italy. The Imperial Government forbade the representation of Pellico's tragedy of "Eufemio di Messina;" and, moved by this, Pellico set up a Liberal journal, entitled the *Conciliatore*, in which, aided by other literary free spirits, he sought to rouse Italy to her regeneration. The Government soon suppressed the paper; and then Pellico undoubtedly became a party to a deep-laid and formidable conspiracy against the Emperor. He was arrested, and was first confined under the leads of the Ducal Palace at Venice; he was afterwards tried, convicted, and condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment in *carcere duro*, at Spielberg. A gaol is ever a terrible place; but, in Austria, it is, of necessity, more terrible than elsewhere. Austria has no penal settlements to transport to; its Imperial Government avoids, as much as possible, inflicting the punishment of death, and, consequently, with part of its population ever about to be insurgent, it is obliged to increase the pains and terrors of incarceration. Pellico was a lamentable victim of this system; his long seclusion and sufferings within the dread walls of Spielberg, away from his parents, and brothers and sisters, whom he loved so dearly, would, in any account, have excited feelings of the deepest commiseration; but his own narrative, his beautifully-written "Mie Prigioni," has proclaimed his protracted agony to the world with appalling and undying effect. "Mie Prigioni" has been translated into every language of Europe; it is, therefore, needless here to do more than refer to it for the full account of what Pellico endured in mind and body at Spielberg. Suffice it to say, that Pellico regained his freedom in the August of 1830, and returned, in a month afterwards, to his parental home at Turin. He has since resided in that city in comparative seclusion, and there his death has recently occurred. Of genius the most highly gifted, of disposition gentle and benevolent in the extreme, affable, virtuous, and honourable, Silvio Pellico was the delight and charm of all who knew him. Sad it is to think that such a man should have been the subject of such sufferings and sorrow.

PROBATE of the Will of the Right Hon. William Legge, Earl of Dartmouth, Viscount Lewisham and Baron Dartmouth, D.C.L., F.R.S., F.A.S., who died at Patehall, Staffordshire, on 22nd November last, was granted, on the 2nd instant, to the Right Hon. William Kippell Viscount Barrington, the brother-in-law. The Right Hon. William Walter Earl of Dartmouth (heretofore Viscount Lewisham), the son, and the Hon. and Rev. Henry Legge, the brother, are the executors named in the will, bearing date the 5th of November, 1849. It was his Lordship's expressed wish in his will that no hatchment should be put up at any of his residences. His mansion at Blackheath he has left for the enjoyment of his three sisters during their respective lives. He leaves to his son, the present Earl, his plate, linen, and jewels; but such of the plate not having the Earl coronet or Viscount's may be used by his daughters—and from the linen, excepts the table linen with armorial bearings upon it, which was given to him by the late Earl of Talbot. There are between £6000 and £7000 in pecuniary bequests. Leaves the residue of his property, carriages, and horses, and all estates, collieries, and mines, and all other estates, real and personal, over which he had a testamentary disposition, in trust for all and every his children (not being the eldest, or holding the family title and estates). The personality was sworn under £180,000.

THE WAR ON THE DANUBE.

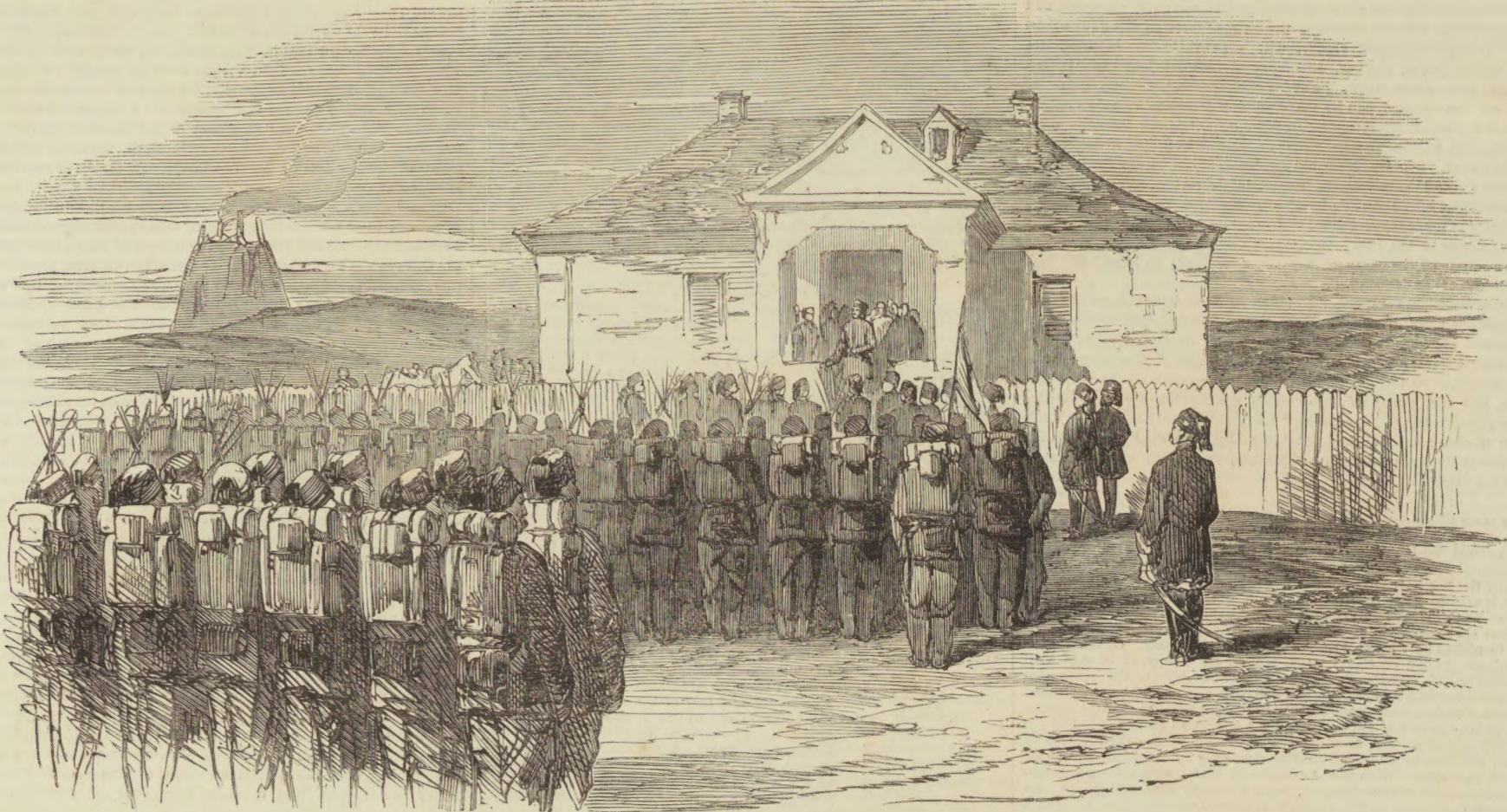
(From our Special Correspondent.)

WIDDIN, Jan. 14, 1854.

I FANCY there can be no greater contrast in the world than that of the old Turkish armies and the forces which are now assembled together to resist the aggression of Russia. Mr. X. Marmier, in his book on Russia, describes the tent of Kara Mustapha, the General of the Turks, which Sobieski brought from Vienna after his victory. It stands even now with its draperies of purple, its Eastern arabesques and silken curtains, a trophy in the old palace of its captor—Willanaw, near Warsaw. Irving, in his "Conquest of the Moors of Spain," does not tire of repeating how gorgeous were the tents, the arms, and accoutrements of the Moslems who held Granada. One seeks in vain for a trace of Oriental magnificence in the modern armies of the Sultan. Their Generals wear the fez, and for the rest are dressed like London inspectors of police; their soldiers have many of them accoutrements such as are described to be those of Bonaparte's first army of Italy; their habitations are holes in the earth, covered over with mats: turbans, jewelled soyim-tars, damask tents, and gorgeous arms are reminiscences of the past. But the Turks have preserved one of the great qualities which made them conquerors; they still possess that brilliant courage which often get the better of serried ranks and European discipline. Nor, indeed, is the organisation of the Turks as soldiers so backward before the breaking out of the present war as may have been supposed. Since the foundation of the military schools of Constantinople and Egypt, the Turkish force is commanded by numerous officers who have studied military tactics; and, although too many of those who at present head the companies are illiterate, and sign their names with a seal because they are unable to write, there is a marked decrease in their numbers as compared with those of former armies. Another great advantage which they possess, is that of being regular and orderly in their dealings with the people of the provinces. This description of the Turks will do as much for them here as the cruel conduct of the Russians has done them harm. "The Muscovites," says Voltaire (if I recollect right), "have always treated the Wallachians badly, and both they and the Moldavians have always shown more affection for the Turks than for the Czar." "The domination of the Turks," he adds, in some other place, "is only fatal to the great, and is extremely mild towards tributary nations." So it is in the Danubian Provinces, where the nobles are the only partisans of Russia, whilst the people fear its inhumanity. It appears that since the appearance of Mr. Von Budberg—who, with his coadjutor, the late Consul, Halchinsky, now rules Wallachia and Moldavia—the villages which are known to have taken part in the Liberal movement of 1848 have been visited with heavy punishment. The Russians have shot the peasants, or forced them to work with their carts and oxen, without remuneration. The Boyards, at the head of their partisans, have gone round and plundered the men who, in their eyes, are guilty of being revolutionary, and thus endeavoured to retrieve the losses which they have themselves suffered from the rapacity of the army of occupation. The Boyards are generally supported in these exactions by the Wallachian and Moldavian clergy, who foresee their death-blow in a Turkish victory. This clergy is known to possess, in land and serfs, more than a third of the entire Principalities; and the Liberals of 1848 did not conceal their intention of depriving these over-swollen despots of a portion of these lands. By making them the property of the State, they intended to enrich the public treasury, and give a proportionate blow to the Russian tendencies of the priests. In the dominions of the Czar the clergy are not so rich as in the Principalities. A few large convents, like Troitz, have money and lands; but the rest are poor, and influence is denied them. Do the wealthy clergy of the Principalities think that they would be long allowed to obey their own Patriarch, and govern their own fat prebendaries, if the Czar once had them fairly in his grasp? Is it not better for them to give up some of their overgrown properties, and remain independent, whilst their country, for the time, pays tribute to the Moslem; than that they should fall to the lowest rank of Russian *Popes* and Bishops? But the clergy of the Principalities only see what appears to them instantly in prospect—namely, a diminution of their revenues; they fail to observe, at a greater distance, the far worse consequences of succumbing to Russian influence. They, therefore, join in the cry set up by the Boyards, and exert their utmost influence against the Turks. But in order to do this they must use some other motive power than that which acts upon themselves, and this they find in the fanaticism of the Turks. There is no concealing that in their contests with the Russians the forces of the Sublime Porte are animated less by a feeling of the unjust aggression of the Czar than by the old and time-honoured notion that the Crescent is to triumph over the Cross. The battle-cry at Citate was "Down with the Giaours," "Long live the Sultan!" and this ignorant peasant, who is called by the same name whilst he drives his bullocks, is slow to comprehend that this fanaticism is directed against the Russians only, and not against all Christians. For this reason, I very much doubt whether the Porte could raise in the whole of Bulgaria—or that part of it, at least, on this side of Schumla—a Christian force on which it could really count for the purpose of opposing Russia; and for the same reason the success of an attempt to raise a regiment of Wallachian volunteers to fight against Russia may be also doubted; but it is possible, on the other hand, that the wrongs which the peasantry have suffered, may overcome all other scruples, and that, from hatred of an oppression to which the Turks have certainly not accustomed them, they may be induced to take up arms in favour of the Porte.

The position of the Christian principalities which have conquered their independence in so far that they are permitted to make their own law, and their own administration is widely different from that of a province like Bulgaria, which still remains a pachalic, and its Christian people rayahs. Under the rule of a good Pacha, Bulgaria has been generally quiet. The peasant holds of the Crown, on condition of paying to the Sultan, through his representatives, the tenth of everything that he produces. In the lambing season—when the vintage time has come—when the fruit is ripening in the orchards—when the maize is yellow in the fields, the tax-gatherer appears, and takes the tenth part of all he finds. The rayah, besides this, pays a capitation tax of 20 to 25 piasters every year; and 5 piasters he voluntarily gives for the support of his clergy. When he is constrained to serve with his cart and oxen, as in time of war, he receives payment—sometimes in money, oftener in bonds upon the tribute of his village, payable in a year or less. His daily pay is 5 piasters for himself, his cart and oxen. This, no doubt, is a small sum, 5 piasters being little more than 9d. sterling. No doubt, also, injustice is frequently committed. If the rayah has a grievance, and goes before the Cadi, he finds a tribunal consisting of six assessors, one only of whom is a Christian: the consequence is that, if he has no Mussulman witnesses, he has no chance of justice. His only plan, therefore, is to suborn poor Mussulmans, who, for 30 piasters, will give evidence, and swear to everything by the Koran, Mahomet, and Allah. In a case tried here, I am told, not long since, an action was brought before the local tribunal of Widdin for the recovery of a sum of money lent to a Turk by a Christian. The Turk was highly confident of success before his partial judges; but the Christian had brought two swarthy Turks to testify in his favour, and, although the Cadi asserted that these self-same swarthy Turks had but lately arrived from Asia, to doubt the word of a follower of the Crescent, when giving evidence in the case of a Christian, would have

THE WAR ON THE DANUBE.



DISTRIBUTION OF THE MEDJIDIE, AFTER THE BATTLE OF CITATE.

been too bad, and the Christian, consequently, got his money. It is evident that gross abuses exist in the administration of justice, and this denial of it to the Christians of European Turkey, in the provinces still subject to the immediate yoke of the Crown, is one of those grievances which cry aloud for redress—one, indeed, which it was said had met with attention from the Porte at the time when she invoked the aid of England, and one which, I am sorry to find, still remains in full force at this very moment in Bulgaria. I have said, that so long as the rayahs had a good Pacha, they were quiet; they are, in truth, quite content to pay their tenths and capitation-tax; for every necessary of life is cheap—salt nuxated, and no foreign produce subject to exorbitant Customs' duties; but when, in addition to all that the peasant pays the Crown, there comes a Pacha who fleeces him of another tenth, then is there discontent, and disaffection takes a rampant form. It is now scarcely three years since the Bulgarians rose in arms against their governors, for some such cause as this; and they are treated, generally, with extreme distrust. In the fortress at Widdin there are about 6000 Turkish inhabitants; and, although the Christians are permitted to trade therein the day-time, they are prohibited from living within the walls. The consequence is that the suburbs are a far more important part of the town than the fortress, and that 8000 Christians carry on various trades there. Even the Jews are better treated in this respect than the rayahs, for they are tolerated amongst the Mussulmans, and live, to the number of nearly 2000, within the walls of Widdin. But although this city is situated on the Danube, and in a splendid natural position, its trade

is, on the whole, extremely slight. It is difficult to get anything in the poverty-stricken shops, except the common necessities of sugar, coffee, salt, tobacco, and meat; butter there is not; milk is to be had with

population around enormous in number, but debarred by poverty from possessing aught but the merest necessities—a hut underground, into which he throws himself, for protection in the summer from heat, in the winter from cold? There is much to be done for those Christian populations. Their country is one of the most fertile and beautiful under the sun; but their social state is most abject and miserable. Mr. Marmier has said, "There are two crimes which call for redress, and those are the oppression of Ireland and the partition of Poland." Let that gentleman visit the Christians of these provinces, and he will find some other grievances to redress, some other members of the human race to improve and care for.

KALAFAT, Jan. 22, 1854.

THE portion of Lesser Wallachia which is at present open to the Turks is by no means a picturesque one. The Danube takes a sudden bend to the west above Kalafat—another turn, equally sudden to the east, below that village—and encloses, as it were, within an arc of which the Russian positions are the cord, a flat and sandy tract of country, intersected by deeply-rutted roads, and ornamented by nothing save the long, gaunt limb of a swing-beam fountain, or little hillocks and mounds of sand of most exiguous dimensions. Upon the undulating surface of these plains the stacks of maize and straw, which form the outward sign of a Wallachian village, loom in the distance—their apparent size increased



DISTANT VIEW OF PAYANA—ROADSIDE FOUNTAINS.

difficulty; and as for luxuries, they are unknown. Every species of manufactured article is of the rudest kind. But what trade, after all, can a city boast of which has only 6000 Turks to satisfy, and a Christian

by mists, or by the absence of other objects of comparison. Not a tree meets the sight—not a bush is visible; nothing but the rotten stalks of maize, or the stubble of the hay-fields, through which the Wallach



SUMMER RESIDENCE OF PRINCE MILOSH, PAYANA.

THE WAR ON THE DANUBE.



WALLACH GUIDES.

clothed in sheep-skins, treads and tends his flock. Large herds of ponies, wild and shaggy, are gathered here and there—sometimes peaceful round a fountain, sometimes scattered and grazing; but

posed exclusively of lancer regiments and irregular cavalry, extend in a direct line fronting those of the Russians, from Gunia to Maglavitz and Payana. Motzatze has been surrounded by a trench and inner para-

penetrating further than a foot. With these the soldiers rush at the enemy, and cast them from them, I am told, with unerring aim, at a distance of twenty feet, against their enemy. Others have long Albanian rifles, or small short muskets, after the Anatolian fashion. All have pistols and cangars in their shawls, and stick their crooked swords under their left leg to ride.

The position of the Turks in Little Wallachia, since their victory at Citate, has not been changed; and, should they continue to act on the offensive, they must still pass over the bodies of at least 20,000 or 25,000 Russians before they can reach Krajova. The troops of the Czar appear in no hurry to commence operations against the trenches and redoubts of Kalafat; but, warned by their late disaster, they appear determined to do no more for the present than oppose a fortified front to the attacks of the enemy, should he try to advance into the interior. They have not appeared in Citate once since their defeat; but they have made Motzatze, or Meczetoi of the maps, the extreme point of their line on their right, and Balleschti, or Boleschti, the extreme point on their left. Their out-posts are at Rast and at Piski. The Turkish out-posts, com-

pet of waggons covered with earth; and the position thus made is considered a very strong one. Balleschti is defended by a line of the same *en demi lune*, fronting the enemy. The reconnoissance, on the present occasion, was in the direction of Piski; but, after two hours' ride, not a sign of the Russians was visible. From the ground we passed on this occasion, it is evident that Payana was once on the very banks of the Danube. The sandy soil upon its right rises into mounds and hillocks on which are to be found no traces of vegetation. It gains a certain elevation, and then falls precipitously to the marshy plain left behind it by the Danube, as it silted up that portion of its course. Payana, however, is much nearer the Danube than the maps now place it; indeed, nothing can be more imperfect than the geography of the country.



ACHMET PACHA FERIK, COMMANDER AT KALAFAT.

Leaving the escort, two officers in company with me scoured the sandy grounds for about half an hour. With a telescope, the distant hills were clearly visible; but no traces of the enemy could be seen; and, the object of the reconnoissance being gained, we returned to headquarters.

On the following day a similar operation, on a larger scale, was resolved on, ostensibly for the purpose of indulging the curiosity of your Correspondent, and satisfying his desire to see the battle-field of Citate; but, perhaps, more probably with the view of ascertaining whether the Russians had extended their line further to the westward than Motzatze. The danger of the operation consisted less in the forward march than in the return, for the road between Payana and Citate can be cut off easily by a force from Motzatze. The troops—which started long before daylight—consisted of 120 Bashi-bozouks, under the command of Yacoub-Aga, an experienced cavalry officer, of European birth. At Maglavitz, which was reached in two hours and a half; a second squadron of Bashi-bozouks joined company, with which we started to Citate; whilst the communication was obligingly kept open, during the day, by five squadrons of Lancers under the command of Suleiman Bey.

From Payana to Maglavitz was a cross-road on the flat undulating plain which I have described. On the distant hills might be seen the Cossack videttes cantering off to give notice of our approach; and the sun being overcast did not make the landscape bear a joyful aspect. The Bashi-bozouks, however, seemed in high spirit, breaking out of their long straggling line, and bursting into gallops, brandishing their rifles and lances with shouts, and then returning to the road where the rest were going at the more regular pace of marching cavalry. In front were carried the green and white flags of the irregulars, already ren-



ARABA OF LITTLE WALLACHIA.

flying at the approach of men, and throwing up behind them heaps of sand and mud.

Through the middle of this wild and melancholy country travelling is easy and rapid, either on horseback or in the native *araba*. The Boyards of Wallachia, when they travel, use their own carriages, to which they yoke as many as ten pair of horses. With a postilion to every fourth horse, they start amidst the huzzas of the surrounding crowd and the yells of the riders, at a speed which is not known in any other country. The *araba* has none of the comforts of the sumptuous vehicles of the Boyards, but it equals them in speed. I travelled in one of them to Payana, on a visit to Skender Bey, commander of the Turkish outposts. A basket large enough to contain one person comfortably, and two with a squeeze, is placed upon four wheels, and four ponies are harnessed to the vehicle. The postilion, with a thong like a boa-constrictor, bestrides one of the beasts, and frightens the team into a gallop by shouts which rise from bass to high falsetto, and drop again, with wild and inharmonious modulations; the mud which covers the road is whirled in clouds upon the occupant of the *araba*; and so one passes over hillocks, into ruts; and jolting, bumping, but going fast, the *araba* and horses "devour space."

Payana is a large straggling village, about a mile in length, which boasts of three or four houses above ground, and a church with a tin roof and steeple. The sun shining upon the latter, makes it visible at an immense distance, and a nearer approach brings into view a wilderness of maize-stacks and hay-ricks, surrounded by palisades; in the midst of which are the *semliks*, or underground houses, in which the Wallachs now divide the space with some regiments of cavalry and irregulars. The village is the property of Milosch Obranowitch, the deposed Prince of Servia, who also owns the neighbouring places of Chupertchin and Dassa. The summer residence of the Prince (of which I send you a Sketch) is the head-quarters of Skender Bey. It is surrounded by a court, at present deep in mud, in which stray soldiers and Wallach guides may be seen patiently waiting for orders. A pathway of planks enables one to reach the house without sinking in the surrounding bog.

Skender Bey is the most amiable of commanders, and the kindest and most hospitable of gentlemen. He gave me permission to join a small reconnoissance in front of the Russian outposts; and the day after my arrival I started with a squadron of most warlike Bashi-bozouks. As they gathered themselves together in the court-yard, they sat their horses with martial carelessness, smoking their chibouks, and joking amongst themselves. Some were armed with thongless lances, made of limber and long bamboos: a brazen ball prevents the lance from



TURKISH ARABA.

in various places by encounters with the enemy. These flags, and two small kettle-drums, are the rallying signs of the Bashi-bozouks, their mode of fighting being the dashing, uncertain one of the old Parthians.

At Maglavitz we entered the road by which the Turks advanced on Citate, and between that and Gania the ground consists of sand-hills whose precipitous sides descend to the plain and marshes of the river. All the villages—Maglavitz, Unia, Funtina-Banaluj, and Citate—are on the crest of these precipitous sand-hills; which attain at the latter place a culminating height of two or three hundred feet above the level of the river. Outside Unia, a splendid landscape burst into view. The course of the Danube was marked for miles by its white and glistening stream. Far away to the left the Bulgarian and Servian hills were visible whilst to the right the precipitous heights of sand, cut with deep and dangerous ravines from passing torrents, were crowned by the tin-roofed church of Citate. A ride of an hour took us to the entrance of Funtina-Banaluj, which, as I discovered, was but an offshoot or continuation of the larger village. There the Turks first encountered the Russians. The latter were advantageously placed on the brow, and behind a mound, on which were some houses and maize-lofts: their right defended by the precipice towards the Danube, their left by a ditch and parapet. The Turks opened the fire of a battery upon this position, and carried it with the bayonet, after a struggle of half an hour; the Russians retiring up the village with their artillery. The main street, following the crest of the precipice, avoids two or three tremendous gullies of great depth, and gradually rises past the church to an apex, on which was the main defence of the Russians. There are certainly not more than half-a-dozen built houses, besides the church, in the place. The enemy fired at the advancing Turks from behind the maize-lofts and hay-ricks, and from the sides of the gullies; but failed to oppose their advance. It was by the side of the church that the second murderous stand was made. The guns of the Turkish cavalry firing from the side opposed to the Danube mowed down the enemy, whilst the advancing chasseurs and infantry added to the slaughter. Upwards of 400 Russians fell upon that spot; and as they lay—many of them quite dead, but more of them alive, though wounded—whole herds of swine rushed on, heedless of the raging balls and musketry, and devoured the blood and entrails of the living. It is a fearful thing on the field of battle to hear the wounded shrieking when trampled by rushing cavalry, but how much more frightful and terrific to see wounded and helpless men endeavouring to frighten away the swine who already seek to devour them. Numerous officers who can confirm the whole of the details I now give you, have told me that they had been in many battle-fields, where the vulture attacks the wounded, and where the tramp of advancing soldiers produces shrieks from the dying; but such scenes as were visible that day they never beheld. "Verily (said a Turk), was not the Prophet right when he forbade us to eat the flesh of swine?"

At the head of the village, and about 100 yards beyond the last semlika, were the remains of the Russian entrenchment. Half a dozen Bashi-bozouks were turning up remains of half-burnt hay, in which were mingled the torn remnants of Russian casques and knapsacks. The ground was strewn with the carcasses of dead horses, partially flayed and eaten into by swine. Many of the latter were still at their horrid feast. They had even succeeded in violating the graves of the dead, many of whom lay there uncovered and grim in aspect. One poor horse, with a leg shot off, was still limping along the ground, without a charitable person near him to end his suffering with a ball or a knife. Here, from the number of helmets and remains of uniforms, many Russians must have perished. The ground was literally strewn with them, but there was scarcely a trace remaining of the position. The entrenchment was not one of earth and fascines, according to the rules of art, but was rather a sort of natural defence made stronger by a few judicious arrangements. The mound on which the Russians were posted was the summit of the sand-hill on which is situated the village of Citate. The precipice on the left formed one defence, and was as the side of a triangle, of which the other side was a ditch and a parapet. Within the space was a yard, in which were nine ricks of hay. The Russians took down a portion of each of them, and formed an inner parapet with the hay. They then dug a trench around, and threw up the earth upon the parapet. By this means they had a defence of tolerable strength. Six guns being placed at intervals between the hay-ricks. The great fault of the Turks was their suffering the Russians to retain that point to the last. I have no doubt that had they made an attack upon it at the latest moment the place would have been carried; for it was not such a post as could be defended for any length of time. The non-capture of this redoubt enabled the Russians to retire with their guns, and the two which they had taken from the Turks. This they did on the evening of the engagement—from 600 to 800 only, according to the accounts of the peasantry, remaining of the number who had occupied Citate in the morning. Amongst the dead were found many Russian Mussulmans: a curious commentary this on a battle where ostensibly the Crescent and the Cross were in deadly hostility. These no doubt were officers of Tartar origin—either Mussulmans, Poles, or Caucasians. Men of this faith, I learn, are enabled to reach the rank of Colonel in the Russian service; but higher they may not rise unless they become Christians. Amongst the officers lost by the enemy was Colonel Baumgartner.

After examining for a short time the burning remains of the aisles, which had formed the Russian defence, and the remnants of casques and uniforms, which so short a time before had been the ornament and badge of living men, I turned my horse's head in the direction of the village, and soon cantered into an open space where Yacoub Aga had assembled all that remained of the Citate villagers. The unfortunate devils looked obsequiously at us; but the conduct of some of them had been the subject of judicial report, and four or five were signalled out and placed amongst a band of Bashi-bozouks to be escorted safely to Payana. The latter, with the unrelenting tendency to plunder which characterises them, had scattered themselves amongst the houses, and were robbing the poor people of their geese and ducks for the purpose of an evening feast.

The homeward march then commenced; and leaving on one side the ground on which Achmet Pacha had so signally defeated the Russian reinforcement, we straggled out of Citate, glad enough to escape the stench, and recover from the varied emotions caused by scenes so painful and sights so terrible as those we had encountered. Those Bashi-bozouks who had been plundering the villagers were marching triumphantly with a couple of geese each tied on their saddles. Presently one of them met with a proper reward for his conduct. His geese began to struggle and cackle lustily. The horse, unaccustomed to the noise, shied, and turned with such rapidity that the Bashi-bozouk fell heavily to the ground, and off flew the birds, with a scream of joy, amidst the laughter of his comrades, who, fearful of a similar fate, were soon to be seen decapitating their prey, for fear of accidents. Their plunder was destined, however, not to be of any comfort to them, for Yacoub-Aga, seeing the birds on all sides swinging to the saddles, gave the word of command, on which the whole troop stopped. An orderly went round, and in a polite manner deprived each man of his birds; and the captain having then delivered a little oration in favour of order and discretion, the troop again moved on, the deprived plunderers looking extremely sheepish and disgusted.

We had hardly proceeded a hundred yards from Citate, when a lancer captain rushed up, and gave the alarm of the Russian approach; and soon, surely enough, we discovered a squadron of Paskievitch hussars, and a battalion of infantry, about half a mile on our right, cresting the hills in front of Motzatze. It was soon evident, however, that they were only there on observation, and we passed unmolested by them to Unia and Maglavitz, from whence we returned to Payana the same night, after a hard ride during the day of fourteen hours.

Yesterday and the day before yesterday were full of rejoicing at Kalafat. The guns of the trenches were firing salvoes all Friday in honour of the victory at Oltentiza; and yesterday the decorations forwarded by Omer Pacha as a recompense for the battle of Citate were distributed. The three feriks, Achmet Pacha, Ismail Pacha, and Mustapha Pacha, had the Medjidie of the second order, together with swords of honour; and the lesser officers received the Medjidie of the fifth order.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

IRREGULARITY OF THE MAILS.

In reply to Lord Vivian, Lord CANNING said that no person could be more sensible than he was of the inconvenience and danger arising to the public from the irregularity of the mail-trains; but the powers given to the Postmaster-General were of little or no avail in respect to checking those irregularities. He had endeavoured, in communication with several of the principal railway companies, to have some regulations established, whereby mutual fines should be levied upon those railway companies under which such irregularities took place. If this system had not the desired effect, he would feel it his duty to apply to Parliament for further power.

PAUPER SCHOOLS.

In reply to a question by Lord Lyttelton, Earl GRANVILLE said he hoped that the Government would be able, in the course of the session, to introduce a measure for the establishment of pauper schools that would give general satisfaction.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

The Marquis of CLARENDON, in respect to the notice he had given that he would call attention to some passages in recent despatches from St. Petersburg, in order to ascertain whether this country was at peace or war, said that since he had given such notice, he ascertained that there was still going on some semblance of negotiation in respect to the war in the East, which he should be sorry by any motion of his to impede in any degree. He would, therefore, content himself by asking Lord Clarendon whether any answer had been received from the Emperor of Russia to those proposals that had been recently made to him? He wished also to know what was the present state of our diplomatic relations with the Court of St. Petersburg?

The Earl of CLARENDON was much obliged to the noble Marquis for the consideration he had shown in postponing a discussion at the present moment, which might to some—though, perhaps, only to a slight extent—prejudice the chance which still remained of arriving at a peaceful solution of the difficulties of the Eastern question. Her Majesty's Government had expected on Friday last to receive officially the reply of the Emperor of Russia; but it was only that afternoon that he had received the official statement. That answer had not as yet been seen by his colleagues, with the exception of the Earl of Aberdeen. Under such circumstances, he would much prefer at that moment not to enter into any details. He might, however, say, that the reply of the Emperor of Russia was unacceptable, and was of a character which would not justify her Majesty's Government to send it to Constantinople.

With respect to my noble friend's second question (said his Lordship), I have to say that, on Saturday evening, Baron Brunnow called upon me at the Foreign Office, and placed in my hands a note in which he announced that the answer he had received from me, on behalf of her Majesty's Government, to the inquiry which he had submitted, was not of such a kind as to permit of his continuing any longer diplomatic relations with this country; and that, therefore, the diplomatic relations between the Russian Government and this country must be for a time suspended. His Excellency took leave of me on Saturday evening, but at too late an hour to permit of his leaving London on that night, but I understood that he would depart early this morning. My Lords, I may observe that it is the earnest desire of her Majesty's Government to give your Lordships the earliest and fullest information upon this and all other important points relating to this question, which is exciting so much anxiety throughout the whole of the country. My Lords, I shall, in the course of this week, endeavour to lay upon the table of your Lordships' house the note which has been addressed to my answer to the last despatch to St. Petersburg (Hear, hear).

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH had never thought that this affair would terminate in anything but a great war; and he hoped her Majesty's Government would not relax their preparations for it.

Earl FITZWILLIAM expressed the same opinion, and added that never had any Government entered upon war with more unanimous support on the part of the people.

Lord BEAUMONT asked whether instructions had been sent to St. Petersburg for our Minister there to withdraw.

The Earl of CLARENDON said that both the French and English Governments had sent instructions to their respective Ambassadors at St. Petersburg to place themselves on the same footing exactly as the Russian Ambassadors in Paris and London had done.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

THE MILITIA LAW.

In reply to various questions, Lord PALMERSTON stated, it was his intention to bring in a bill to consolidate the Militia laws, and also that England, Ireland, and Scotland would be placed on the same footing as regards the Militia.

THE OATHS BILL.

Lord J. RUSSELL, in moving that the House should resolve itself into Committee on the Parliamentary Oaths, laid down the principle that all affirmations required upon such solemn occasions as that of a member taking his seat, or a functionary assuming office, should be imbued with a serious purpose and possess some obvious relevancy to the present state of things. Otherwise, he contended, the ceremony was nothing but a profanation. Declaring that the oath of allegiance as now taken was fit and necessary, he inferred that it was almost, if not altogether, sufficient for all purposes. Passing on to the other two oaths, those of supremacy and abjuration, the noble Lord dissected their respective meanings, recapitulated the well-known historical origin of every separate clause, and pointed out the special danger which they were intended to repel. These dangers, he urged, were now extinct or obsolete. No one now believed that the Pope had authority to depose the English Sovereign; that the interests of the Roman Catholic Church justified assassination, or could take up arms on behalf of the Pretender's family, whose last scion had died many years since. He called on the House, therefore, to imitate the common-sense proceedings exhibited in the conduct of ordinary life, and abandon precautions when the peril had ceased. Presenting a single form of oath, which he read to the House, and proposed to substitute for the triple series of affirmations now required, Lord J. Russell proceeded to defend two characteristics in this suggested form of words which challenged remark. He had eliminated from it the religious element, believing that the time was come when such simplification was desirable, and arguing that the introduction of religious opinions into a Parliamentary or official oath was simply injurious, entangling the consciences of some, while it availed nothing to protect the faith of others. He had also omitted the words, "on the true faith of a Christian." That phrase had no other effect than to prevent a Jew from sitting in Parliament. If the Legislature desired such a prohibition, let them formally insist on the introduction of the sentence, and then express their intention in an unmistakable manner. If, however, they chose to arrive at the same result in a less direct mode by rejecting his proposal, and retaining the parliamentary oaths as they now stood, the noble Lord suggested that another and most grave question would then be opened, namely, whether the tenor of those oaths rested upon the authority of the united legislation, or whether the House of Commons did not hold in its own hands exclusively the power to alter the formalities which regulated the admission of its own members.

Sir F. THESIGER said it was not his intention to oppose the motion of the noble Lord on that occasion, nor would he oppose the bringing in of the bill; but he could not allow the opportunity to pass without warning the House of the importance of the question which was about to be submitted to their consideration. The present were not times when he could feel satisfied to dispense altogether with the oath of supremacy. The honourable and learned gentleman proceeded to contend that the proposition of the noble Lord would invade one of the securities of the Protestant religion, because it tended to weaken the Queen's supremacy, which was one of the keystones of the Protestant religion. He would most certainly oppose the bill of the noble Lord on the second reading, and would do all in his power to prevent its passing into law.

The House then went into committee, and a resolution was agreed to on which to found a bill for the alteration of those oaths.

The House having resumed, the bill was brought in, read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time that day three weeks.

SLIGO ELECTION.

On the motion of Mr. I. BUTT, seconded by Mr. SADLER, a committee was appointed to inquire into the allegations contained in the petition of John Patrick Somers, Esq., in reference to the Sligo borough election.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Lord MONTEAGLE complained that the law relating to railway accidents was not on a right footing, and that too long a period was allowed to elapse after a railway accident, before a return was made to the House.

Earl FITZWILLIAM said he understood that a bill was about to be brought forward by Government, in the other House, to remedy the evil. He thought it would be better if legislation on such a matter were to begin in that House.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY said the President of the Board of Trade would soon introduce a measure which would have the effect of mitigating the evil.

Earl GREY was persuaded that if the applications of railway companies for additional powers were refused by their Lordships in every case where due arrangements were not made for public safety, the effect would be beneficial.

Lord CAMPBELL thought that further legislation was indispensable. He hoped a bill would be introduced and passed which would do justice to the people of this country.

THE NAVY LIST.

The Earl of HARDWICKE moved for a committee to examine into the state of the Navy List. He complained of the existing system by which promotions and retirements in the upper ranks of the service were regulated. With reference to the active Admirals, he found that they were twenty-two in number. He had taken the date of the commission of those Admirals when they were made Post Captains, and supposed their age at that time to be twenty-five years, and to that he had added the period which had since elapsed. By this rule he found that the youngest officer amongst them was seventy-five years of age (Hear). On the Vice-Admiral's list, it appeared by the same test, that the youngest officer was sixty-nine years of age. Then came the list of Rear-Admirals, and in that list would be found many officers who were capable of taking charge of a squadron and doing service to the country. Captains were now compulsorily placed on the retired list of Admirals, although still young and physically capable of active service, merely because they had not held commands afloat for the prescribed term. The efficiency of the navy was thus seriously diminished.

The Earl of ABERDEEN saw no reason to change the present regulations, which had been approved by every successive Board of Admiralty since 1827. He doubted whether any system could be devised better calculated than the present one to provide for the efficiency of the service by ensuring the due degree of qualification in the officers entrusted with high command.

After some remarks by Lord COLCHESTER and the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, the motion was withdrawn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

EDUCATION.

Lord J. RUSSELL (in answer to Mr. Adderley) said it was not his intention to re-introduce the bill of last session in the shape in which it was then before the House. As regards future legislation, it was the intention of the Government to wait and see the fate of the bill to be introduced by the Lord Advocate relative to education in Scotland. When the opinion of the House had been declared on that bill, they would further consider the propriety of proceeding with a general measure of education for England. With regard to pauper schools, that subject was still under the consideration of the Government.

CHURCH-RATES.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to a question regarding Church-rates, said he hoped to be able to bring forward a measure on the subject this session.

LIMITED LIABILITY.

Mr. COLLIER asked leave to bring in a bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Stannaries Court to Devonshire, to define and regulate the cost-book system of mining, and to limit, in some degree, the liability of partners in cost-book mines.

Sir A. COCKBURN said he would not object to the motion. The question of limited liability was of vast importance; and, in reference to it there was the greatest variety of opinion. The introduction of the bill must not be held as committing the Government either way.

Mr. HUME hoped that, upon so important a question as that of limited liability, the Government would not keep the country much longer in suspense. When the Commission on the subject had closed its inquiry, he hoped no time would be lost in laying the evidence before the House. Until lately, he had always been opposed to limited liability; but facts which had come to his knowledge had made him a convert; and he now thought it would benefit both the lower and the middle classes.

Mr. MOFFATT said the extension of the jurisdiction of the Stannaries Court would be hailed in Cornwall with great satisfaction. The question deserved special attention on account of the vast increase of mining speculations which had taken place within the last century. In 1759 the produce of copper alone in Devon and Cornwall was estimated at £30,000; in the first year of the present century it was £500,000; in the last year it was £1,211,000. All these mining operations were conducted on an uncertain system, and this was one of the evils which the bill was intended to remove. As regarded limited liability, he believed the inhabitants of the West of England were decidedly in favour of the application of that principle to mining operations.

Mr. W. A. WILKINSON had for twelve years been connected with an association in Lambeth, whose object was to improve the dwellings of the humble classes, and though they had a charter, they had the greatest difficulties for want of the principle of limited liability. The adoption of that principle would set free a large amount of capital, and thereby increase the demand for labour.

Mr. W. BROWN was no convert to the principle of limited liability. He was quite convinced that this country owed much of its prosperity to the credit and honour of the British merchant, and he thought its credit would be greatly impaired if it were placed in the same position as France with regard to limited liability. Persons who enjoyed the profits of trade in times of prosperity should be willing to contribute something to make up the losses incurred in times of adversity; and there could be no doubt that in periods of commercial distress, if limited liability had been the law of the land, many would have shielded themselves under it, and the creditor would have suffered. He was willing to admit that in the case of mining concerns, railroads, and other large undertakings, it might be expedient for the Government to grant limited liability; but he would always leave it to the Board of Trade to determine whether or not the principle should be enjoyed in any particular case.

Mr. VIVIAN thought it highly undesirable to introduce the principle of limited liability generally into our commercial system. There were certain cases to which it might safely be applied, and among these was the case of mining operations.

Lord GODERICH said the law of partnership was in a position in which it could not be allowed long to remain. The power now vested in the Board of Trade of granting at its pleasure charters by which special privileges were conferred on some bodies, while they were denied to others whose object was similar, was virtually a power of granting monopolies (Hear, hear). This objection would be removed if limited liability were granted to all who were prepared to submit to stringent regulations. If it were right to suspend the law in favour of large undertakings, how could it be just to enforce it against those who were engaged in undertakings which required a small amount of capital? The present law often operated with very great injustice. There was the case of a man who had made a valuable discovery. This man wanted capital to carry out his discovery. He went into the market to raise it, but here he was met by the law of partnership, and he could not obtain the money which he wanted, because the capitalist would not be satisfied with the legal rate of interest. It was, however, chiefly on account of the interests of the working-classes that he advocated the principle of limited liability. By the alteration of the law which he sought to effect, they would do something towards putting an end to the disputes between capital and labour, which must have engaged the attention of every member of that House (Hear, hear). A law which would enable the master to share a small portion of his profits with those whom he employed, would tend more to bind together the interests of the two classes than any other measure that could be passed. And if workmen themselves wished to combine together to carry on manufacturing operations, whatever might be the opinion of the House as to the result, they ought not to be denied the opportunity of making the experiment.

Mr. CARDWELL reminded the House that the question of limited liability was undergoing the consideration of a commission, and stipulated that permission to read the bill a first time must not be construed into an opinion upon the great question of limited and unlimited liability.

Leave was then given to introduce the bill.

DESPATCH OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON moved the appointment of a select committee to consider whether, by any alteration in the forms and proceedings of the House, the despatch of public business could be more effectively promoted. He suggested several ways in which the business might be facilitated. One was the shortening of speeches. Last session, fifteen hours and a half were taken up in the delivery of three speeches; the speakers being the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the President of the Board of Control. The two former ran what might be called a dead heat—five hours each—but the President of the Board of Control beat them both. Sir John would not undertake to say which of the speeches of these distinguished persons was best worth the time; but this he could say—and he was confident the House would go along with him in the opinion—that the speeches of all three would have been greatly improved had they been a good deal shorter.

Sir GEORGE GREY cautioned the House against expecting any great result from the proposed inquiry. It was the pressure of private business which caused the difficulty. The best cure would be found in the good sense of members themselves limiting their speeches to matter which bore distinctly upon the question at issue.

The motion having been agreed to,

The SPEAKER handed in a manual of Parliamentary practice which he had prepared, and which he thought might be useful to the committee.

THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

Mr. BRADY obtained leave to introduce a Bill for the Registration of Qualified Practitioners, and for amending the law relating to the practice of medicine in Great Britain and Ireland.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Mr. SOTHERON obtained leave to bring in a Bill to Regulate Friendly Societies.

IRISH BRIBERY.

Mr. ISAAC BUTT brought under notice an article in the *Times* of Monday last, which he deemed a breach of privilege. The charges made reflected not only upon individual members, but upon the character of the House itself. It was certainly insulting to the Irish representatives. The foundation of the article was thus explained. At a dinner, given at Tuam to celebrate the principle of tenant right, it was stated in the presence of several members of Parliament, that two Irish members had sold for money the patronage which Ministers had put at their disposal in return for their votes. These offices consisted of paid guardianships and stipendiary magistracies. The authorities were Dr. Gray, of the *Freeman's Journal*, and Mr. Kelly. He demanded investigation in the name of the Irish members, who had all been included in the sweeping censure; in the name of the Irish gentry, who had been superseded by paid guardians; on the ground that they could not be trusted; and in the name of the stipendiary magistrates. He had a precedent in the affair which occurred in 1834, in which Mr. Shiel was involved. The inquiry instituted in that case arose out of an assertion made at a dinner in the north of England, to the effect that an Irish member, who spoke and voted against the Coercion Bill, had advised the Government to push the measure to completion. Mr. Shiel was the member alluded to, and he was acquitted. Mr. Butt would move that the article in the *Times* be read at the table; and that done, he would move that the charges be investigated by a select committee. He did not mean to proceed in any way against the newspaper.

The article was accordingly read by the Clerk. Founding upon the Tuam declarations, the *Times* spoke of the Irish members as needy persons seeking only for place and position.

Mr. BUTT having moved the appointment of a Select Committee to investigate, Mr. J. O'CONNELL seconded the motion, and expressed a hope that the English members would not oppose the inquiry.

Lord J. RUSSELL deemed the inquiry inevitable. The honour of Parliament, the honour of the Government, and the honour of the Irish members, were all involved.

Mr. LUCAS mentioned that he was present at the Tuam banquet, and heard the statements referred to. These charges were not new to him, and did not, consequently, surprise him. Such charges circulated freely in Ireland, and Mr. Lucas believed them. He went at great length into the case, and related some cases of foul play which he had received under the seal of secrecy, and which rendered it impossible for him to give the name of his informant. He thought the inquiry ought to extend beyond the cases instanced by Dr. Gray and Mr. Kelly, so as to lead to the detection of the means by which Ministers have kept themselves in power through the instrumentality of the Irish members. Understanding that the question of inquiry was to be brought on by Mr. Butt, Mr. Lucas thought it as well to communicate by telegraph with Dr. Gray, and he had just received a message in return, in these words—"I am ready to attend at the bar."

Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE hoped that Mr. Lucas, who knew so much of the matter, would give the committee the benefit of his extensive knowledge. Inquiry, however, must not be limited to the Irish members. Something affecting English members has come out recently, in connection with the affairs of the hon. member for Sunderland (Mr. Hudson). In the accounts presented to the Court of Chancery, a sum of £6300 is put down as having been distributed in shares to landowners and members of Parliament, to secure their good services. Would Lord John Russell shrink from sanctioning that inquiry? He had given notice that, on Friday, he would ask leave to bring in two bills to prevent bribery and corruption amongst prior electors. No doubt these bills would confirm the law which punished a poor man for taking a pot of beer or £3 or £4 for his vote; but, if his vote was criminal, how much more so was that of the man who corrupted the members of the House?

The motion was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

MR. HUDSON.

Mr. HUDSON complained of the allusions made with respect to him last night by Mr. Duncombe, and particularly because no notice had been given to him of the intention of making such allusions. He had never tampered with any member of the House, and on his honour he denied the charge. He was charged with disgorging, but that was merely by a legal construction. His position was morally right, but legally wrong; and he defied anyone to show anything against him, from his cradle to the present hour. He had enjoyed the confidence of the world, but he now experienced the bitterness of the reverse. He was ready to unravel everything, and he courted inquiry. The press was against him; he had been the subject of vituperation; but he had the consolation to know that all the works which he had projected or promoted were successful, and he would leave to posterity to do him justice. If money had been his sole object, he could, with the power he which he had, have accumulated money to any amount. The honourable member was deeply affected.

The House adjourned at five minutes to one o'clock.

(Continued on page 133.)

THE MACE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

In your able and interesting article in the last ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS on the House of Commons, incidental mention is made of the Mace as that so unceremoniously treated by Oliver Cromwell. Allow me to rectify this error. The present Mace of the House of Commons is not the "laible" of Cromwell. That was a very plain-looking affair; the House having resolved to have "a new Mace to replace the late Royal Mace, ornamented merely with flowers, instead of the cross and ball on the top, and the arms of the late King."

In West's famous picture of the "Dissolution of the Long Parliament by Cromwell," the "bauble" is represented as being very plain—thus agreeing with the above description.

On the Restoration, the House of Commons expressly ordered "That two new Maces be forthwith provided—one for this House, and the other for the Council of State, with the Cross and King's Majesty's Arms, and such other ornaments as were formerly used."

The Mace now used in the House of Commons is thus one of these new Royal Maces, and agrees precisely with the foregoing description.

In my "History of the Royal Society" I have entered at length into the history of the "Bauble" Mace, which was long supposed to have been in the possession of the Royal Society; and I would beg to refer any of your readers who may be interested in the details to that work.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

Somerset House, Jan. 6, 1854.

C. R. WELD.

THE CORPORATION OF LONDON KILLED BY ITS FRIENDS.

A PARALYZED giant, a helpless and withered beauty, or a broken-down merchant, invariably excites pity; but no sympathy exists for those whose reverse has come through a long course of riotous living, selfish indulgence, or the extravagance of vulgar parade. Fortunately, for every class in England there is an asylum in which the unfortunate or depraved may receive some shelter for their weary heads—some consolation in their hours of fading life, and at last a decent burial. No such comfort, however, is accorded to corrupt and dying Corporations. How humiliating is the present condition of the Corporation of London! Rejected, scorned, spurned, helpless and friendless, it awaits its dissolution, not with becoming fortitude and resignation, but in the spirit of the gambler who ever hopes that some turn of the wheel of fortune may overcome his difficulty, and restore him to happiness and wealth.

With an air of candour, the Consolidated Committee advised that all books, officers, and facts of every description should be at the service of the Commissioners. Nothing should be withheld—they had nothing to conceal. The more the officers of the Corporation were investigated, the higher they would stand in public estimation. Certain grave charges were made by accusing witnesses in reference to the press having been tampered with or bribed—that articles were written to order, money paid for their being inserted, and then the paper purchased and distributed among its members to prove how public opinion was turning in favour of the retention of Smithfield Market in the centre of the metropolis. The uninitiated believed such matters as impossible as they seemed incredible. Mr. Scott, however, in a manner that did him infinite honour, related every circumstance, and proved the truthfulness of the charge. Yet the Chairman of the Consolidated Committee, with an effrontery difficult to characterise, with Mr. Scott's evidence in print before him, had the assurance to declare in his evidence that, although authorised to spend £20 a week in the manner referred to, their expenditure had never exceeded £170 or £180 per annum. Yet Mr. Scott had testified that more than £600 had been wasted in the vain attempt to establish a trashy paper called the *Citizen*; and Mr. Scott's evidence was confirmed by the Remembrancer. Mr. Wood then asserted that the Committee, as a committee, knew nothing of such proceedings; but it was delegated to a few gentlemen of the Committee to treat with the press. Mr. Wood knows, or ought to know, that every member of the Committee suspected the truth, though they would not divulge the secrets of the prison house. Does Mr. Wood suppose that his paltry excuse will screen the members of that Committee from the charge of having wastefully and wilfully expended large sums of money for the purpose of polluting the springs of public opinion, and, through them, corrupting public taste by the foulest misrepresentations? But take Mr. Wood on his own ground, and to what conclusion are we driven?

Allowing the Corporation to be purely itself, allowing that Mr. Wood's version of the story is the true one, and that Mr. Scott and Mr. Tyrell have been guilty of the grossest perjury, it comes to this: The Corporation delegate to a committee certain powers. The committee choose from among themselves certain discreet members to do that which, as a committee, they are ashamed to acknowledge—large sums of money are paid without proper voucher or proper entry in the books. Yet, it is unblushingly declared, that no such things were done, although moneys were absolutely paid by order of the committee; and thousands of pounds were distributed to agents, canvassers, literary men, and lawyers.

Some people are said to live from hand to mouth. The Corporation can hardly be said to live from day to day. The independence of one of their members was enough to make him detested by the general body. Straightforward sturdy pluck was denounced as treachery. He was accused of intentionally speaking what he knew to be untrue. He wisely washed his hands of the whole body, and what has been the result? It is now proved, in evidence given by members of the Corporation, that, instead of overstating his case, it has been greatly understated. The grave charges referred to last week were to be controverted; yet they have been either passed over, admitted, or confirmed. The officers of the Corporation, who live by the Corporation, and, of course, can see no harm in it, persuaded the Consolidated Committee to leave the defence to them. The Consolidated Committee concurred. Who, in his senses, would leave his defence solely to his lawyer? What confidence can the public repose in such defence? If accused of impropriety of conduct, the lawyer who is engaged to conduct the case is not the person to whom should be committed the sole duty of giving evidence. In a criminal court such a proceeding would never obtain a verdict from a British jury; yet such is the frail reliance on which the Corporation of London depend for their exculpation. The written defence was to annihilate those who had presumed to touch with their unholy hands the sacred vestments of the Corporation. Yet they survive! The evidence in support of the defence was to convince all persons of the hollowness and presumption of those who had the temerity to expose the presumed misdeeds. Yet nothing is disproved.

Then they were to have the last word of evidence; and thus, under the smoke of their own fire, leave the people bewildered, and retire with honour. Mr. Labouchere cut this pedestal of hope from under them. Now it appears that the precious Committee had concocted another scheme, by which they thought to hoodwink the Commissioners, and bamboozle the public. Determined to have the last word, they conceived the plausible notion of drawing up a scheme of reform, based on all the evidence given, which they trusted would receive the approbation of the Commissioners, and be acceptable to the public. Such were the plans adopted at a secret meeting, to which, it is said, all were pledged to adhere. It was to come on the Commissioners like a thunder peal, and astonish the world. Beaten from every rallying point, without support and without credit for common honesty, they yet cherished the idea of suggesting some alterations, calculated, in their judgment, to meet the case; and, by assuming a virtue of which they knew themselves destitute, they concluded that, worn out by the tediousness of the defence, the Commissioners might, in a moment of fatigue, adopt their plan. Then what a flourish of trumpets! "Wrongfully accused, we have voluntarily submitted to dissection. We have been cuffed, kicked, and spat upon; yet, phoenix like, we rise from the ashes of our corruption, proclaim a principle, and prove to the world that we are full of vitality, and stand before the universal public the only instance of a self-reformed corporation."

"Whom the Gods wish to punish, they first make mad." The friends and upholders of the Corporation are blind to the danger that awaits them. They seem to have no conception that the gentlemen who are inquiring into, and will report upon, all their proceedings are three of the clearest heads in England. Can the Corporation conceive it possible that a few picked men of their body will be looked upon as a fair sample of the body corporate? No. The Commissioners will have before them some of those ill-used gentlemen who, as chairmen, have been denounced as incapables, while brother members have given it as their profound opinion that the wisest and fittest are always appointed to the chairs of the several committees. We shall see.

All this private scheming and concocting has been divulged by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor. Opposing, as he did, several of the suggestions that had been made, he, nevertheless, confessed that much was wrong. Looking forward to an election for the City at no distant date, he shrewdly endeavoured to win the support of the Reformers by proposing a plan of reform, which only differed in degree, and not in kind,

from that proposed by the ablest witnesses previously examined. He courted the support of the flagrantly corrupt, by desiring to leave the "Livery" untouched, to exercise all their offensive and absurd privileges as at present. This spoiled the whole; but, the exposure of the secret conclave excited great surprise. Alderman Farebrother rushed to the rescue, denounced the opinions of the Lord Mayor as indiscreet and, although he might entertain them as a private individual, they were not those of the Court of Aldermen, neither were they the sentiments of the committee to which had been entrusted the management of the Corporation defence. The squabble was a very pretty one, and well calculated to destroy any little prestige that might still have attached to the character of the Corporation.

The announcement that the Court of Aldermen represented a mass of private wealth equal to £4,000,000 sterling will surprise many; but mere money-grubbing or money-loving is no evidence of the possession of qualification for the performance of high magisterial duties. Besides, that is not the point at issue. It is not a question of poverty or riches, but, whether the Aldermen should continue to have any independent power over the City's cash, whether they should be elected for life, and whether they ought to be reduced in number? Mr. Bennoch considers they ought not to possess any independent control over the cash; that they should not be elected for life; and that they ought to be reduced from 26 to 12, and the Common Council from 206 to 72. The Lord Mayor adopts a similar view. He considers that their control over the funds ought to be limited; that the number of Aldermen should be reduced from 26 to 18, and the Common Council from 206 to 96; but, as is quite natural for an Alderman, he thinks that they ought to be elected for life. We have no desire to depreciate the character of the Court of Aldermen. As a body they are infinitely superior to the Court of Common Council, and on this very question of Reform have been singularly unanimous. Had the other branch of the Corporation been equally faithful to their trust, they, as a body might have been spared the pain of the investigation by which so much discreditable conduct is brought to light. Whatever is the result of this inquiry we sincerely trust in the Commissioners doing their duty faithfully, and we have no fear of their being diverted from the right course by any plausible pretence of the Corporation, or any awakened zeal for Reform as indicated by any scheme they can propose.

FIRE AND GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

About half-past five on Tuesday morning, as a policeman was passing the house numbered 19, Princes-street, St. Ann's, Soho; he was told by a female, whom he saw at the window in her night dress, that the house was on fire. The constable instantly sounded his rattle, other policemen came, and some of them were sent off for the engines and fire-escapes. At Golden-square, where one of the escapes is stationed, the man in charge was absent, so that considerable time was lost; and the result was the loss of several lives.

The shop and parlour were occupied by a man named Reeve, a print and bookseller; in the first floor resided the ostensible landlord, James Arthur, a painter and glazier, with his family; the second floor was rented by an interpreter, named Puzzi, who with his wife and four young children occupied the two small rooms of which it consisted; and in the front and back attics lived, respectively, an aged female whose name is unknown, and a journeyman tailor of the name of Adams, with his wife.

During the time lost in getting the escapes to the spot a number of the unfortunate occupants made their appearance at the casements, and begged of those below to procure ladders to rescue them, as they were unable to live in the heat any longer. The screams of several other persons in the upper rooms became at this juncture pitiable in the extreme. The inmates of one of the adjoining houses, on looking out of one of the side windows, perceived the aged widow, and Mr. and Mrs. Adams at the third floor back window, calling loudly for help until the flames entered the room, and completely prostrated the three. Mr. Puzzi attempted to get his wife and four children out of the second floor front, but the fire became so fierce that they one by one fell to the floor; and at length the fire completely encircled Mr. Puzzi, igniting his shirt, and burning him over the face; when, as the last expedient, he jumped out of the window, alighted upon a wooden projection over the shop, but rebounding, fell upon his head on the stone flags beneath. He was forthwith removed to Charing-cross Hospital, and placed under the care of the house-surgeon, but such is the extensive character of the injuries received by the fall and the burns, that not the least hopes can be entertained of his recovery.

The two females, the mother and her daughter, who, it appears, first discovered the fire, as well as Reeves and his family, fortunately escaped, as did Mr. Arthur and his wife and child. In spite of the exertions of the firemen every upper room was consumed, the roof was burnt off, and the furniture of the different inmates reduced to ashes.

ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO BREAK INTO WINDSOR CASTLE.—When the South-Western station was erected, some three years ago, a private carriage-road was made at the foot of the Slopes to the Castle. This road is used only by members of the Royal family, and by gentlemen attached to the Royal household. On leaving the train last Monday night, Colonel Hood, Clerk-Marshal to his Royal Highness Prince Albert, proceeded by the Slopes, as the nearest way to the Castle, and was not a little surprised to encounter in his walk seven or eight men, with their faces blackened, and their rest nullified, if he might judge by the noiseless character of their movements. The ruffians fled at the approach of the hon. and gallant gentleman, and have not since been heard of. On inquiry it appeared that the suspected burglars were observed by the sentinel on duty at the corner of the Prince of Wales' Tower (on the basement of which is the gold pantry), and that the man-at-arms, looking down from the terrace, threatened to fire at them. To this he replied that if he attempted to fire, or give the alarm, they would blow out his brains. The hostile parley had proceeded thus far when Colonel Hood entered by the Lodge-gate in Datchet-lane, and the burglars doubtless supposed that he was at the head of a party sent to capture them. This will account for their precipitate flight and subsequent escape. On the arrival of Colonel Hood at the Castle the police were ordered to patrol the Slopes for the remainder of the night, but they could detect nothing likely to excite suspicion, or serve as a clue to the apprehension of the guilty parties. The affair has created a great sensation in Windsor, and will cause the Palace to be guarded more strictly than ever, especially after nightfall.

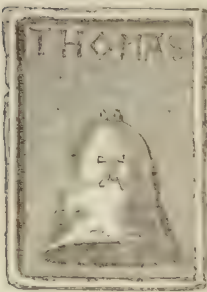
MORMON EMIGRANTS.—Last week nearly three hundred Mormons met in Newport, from various districts on the Hills, with the view of starting together for the Great Salt Lake. A meeting of the intending emigrants took place in the long room, at the Sunderland House, Llanarth-street, the same evening; and next morning, the eager enthusiasts left the town per the Newport and Hereford Railway, for Liverpool—the latter port being the spot at which they intended—with others who would join them on the route—to embark.

THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.—The London committee of merchants and others, associated for the assimilation of the commercial and bankruptcy laws of the United Kingdom, are now in communication with the commercial societies of Liverpool with the view of promoting this important movement. The first great step towards its accomplishment is the bill which was introduced by Lord Brougham last session of Parliament, and read a second time, having for its object the assimilation of the bankruptcy systems of England and Scotland. Another great step in the direction of assimilation, is a bill about to be introduced into Parliament, for the extension to England of the Scottish system of recovering by summary procedure on bills of exchange. By that cheap and speedy method of recovering payment, the holder is enabled, without bringing an action, to sign judgment when the bill is dishonoured, and after six days' notice to issue execution. Nor is the debtor allowed to dispute the bill until he finds two sufficient sureties for debt and costs; and not even then, unless he can satisfy a Judge at the outset that he has *prima facie* reasonable and honest grounds for refusing payment.

AN EXTRAORDINARY FEAT was successfully performed on Monday, January the 30th, at Eastbourne, Sussex, by Edward Curtis Graham, Esq., of the Elms, an undergraduate of Trinity College, Cambridge. The undertaking was to perform a walk of eighty miles within the twenty-four hours. The ground chosen was a measured half-mile on the road which passes Compton place. Mr. Graham started at a quarter before one a.m., and walked the first half of his journey straight off, stopping to breakfast at half-past ten. After an hour and a half of rest, he started afresh, and completed the fifty-sixth mile, when he stopped again from half-past four till a quarter to six. From that hour he continued his task uninterrupted to the end, coming in without any sign of distress at twenty minutes after midnight. Great interest was excited in the march, and popular feeling was strongly in favour of the walker, who was loudly cheered. It may easily be conceived that the office of the umpires and time-keepers was no light one during the darkness of a great part of two consecutive, windy, and sometimes drizzling, nights, especially the first night, when each arbiter sat "alone in his glory," for it had not been made known that the feat was to take place.

STATUE OF LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Spence has completed the model of a colossal figure, intended for the Sydenham Palace, representing his native city of Liverpool. The figure is dignified, and grandly draped, and will be easily distinguished from her companions in the row of cities, by the commercial caduceus and the legendary bird, the Liver, which was the origin of her name.

RESTORATION OF THE BEAUCHAMP TOWER.



INSCRIPTION OF THOMAS ABEL.

HERE are few places in this country so eminently connected with historical events of the greatest importance as the Tower of London; yet, not many other have been less cared for and more mutilated. The repairs made from time to time have been executed without consideration of the ancient style and features of the architecture, and additions made which offended the improved taste of the present day. The White Tower has been cased and disguised by windows of about the time of James I.; and in later years the beautiful Norman chapel, the details of which are almost as fresh as if built yesterday, has been railed off, like the drying-shop of a glue manufacturer; and the records of the country been kept for years in a place liable to fire, from the introduction of so much wood, and dangerous from being in the near neighbourhood of a mine of gunpowder. It is, however, satisfactory to know that these valuable Records will in a short time be removed, when, no doubt, the interior of the Great Keep of the Tower will be thrown open to the public. Before concluding our short chapter of complaints, we must say a word or two respecting the present condition of the Traitor's Gate—the water entrance to the Tower—and through which so many have passed never to return. Here the Princess Elizabeth sat on the steps in the midst of rain and storm, declaring that she was no traitor. Scores of pages of history and events affording materials for both the poet and the painter come into the memory at the mention of the name of this gloomy portal. We must not, however, be drawn off by these particulars. Many of our readers will remember, when visiting the Tower, looking with intense feeling through the chequers of the door into this archway at the rushing tide, and being led back according



THE BEAUCHAMP TOWER RESTORED.—EAST FRONT.

champt Tower was used as a mess-room by the officers of the garrison. Many of the inscriptions on the walls were covered with paint; the windows were disfigured, and the lower room converted into a kitchen. Subsequently a grant of money was obtained from Parliament, and the tower placed in the hands of Mr. Salvin, the architect, for its complete restoration.

The whole of the interior and exterior have been cased, and the inscriptions cleansed by an ingenious chemical process from dirt and paint. During this operation many new names have been brought to light which have been for long hidden from plaster, &c. Amongst these is the first engraved rebus, on the upper left hand. Thomas Abel was educated at Oxford, where he completed his degrees in arts in the year 1516, and became a Doctor of Divinity; he was a man of learning, a great master of instrumental music, and well skilled in modern languages. These qualifications introduced him at Court, and he became domestic chaplain to Queen Catherine of Arragon, wife of Henry VIII., and served her Majesty in the above-mentioned capacity. When the validity of the marriage of the Queen and Henry VIII. became a question, the affection which Dr. Abel bore towards his mistress, led him into the controversy to which it gave rise, and he opposed the divorce both by words and writings. By giving in to the delusion of the "Holy Maid of Kent" he incurred a misprison, and was afterwards condemned and executed in Smithfield, together with others, for denying the King's supremacy, and affirming his marriage with Queen Catherine to be good.

The second of the inscriptions engraved in the right-hand column, is by Robert Bainbridge, who was imprisoned for writing a letter offensive to Queen Elizabeth; James Gilmor, 1569; Thomas Talbot, 1462. This is the oldest inscription which has been found in the prison: this gentleman was in 1464, and kept Henry VI. prisoner at Waddington-hall, in Lancashire. Robert Tidir: no date; nor can we give any information respecting his history. Jane: cut in letters of the Elizabethan style, attracts more attention than those of more elaborate design and execution, in consequence of its associations with the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey. These names are supposed to have been cut by Lord Guildford when confined in a separate prison from the Lady Jane.

Another beautifully-executed carving is the work of John Dudley,

said to have been murdered by Richard III., agrees with the account of the place of meeting between Georgina Harriet, his god-daughter, and Nigel. There is here a secret closet near the roof, of no seeming

brother to Lord Guildford. This consists of a shield containing the well known armorial bearings—the bear and ragged staff. The shield is surrounded by flowers, well-designed and cut, and which are probably intended to allude to the names of his four brothers—viz., the roses for the R in Robert; the honey-suckles for the H in Henry; the acorns on the oak sprig from the A in Ambrose; and the plant which resembles a geranium, for the G in Guildford. The inscription at the bottom of the device is as follows:—

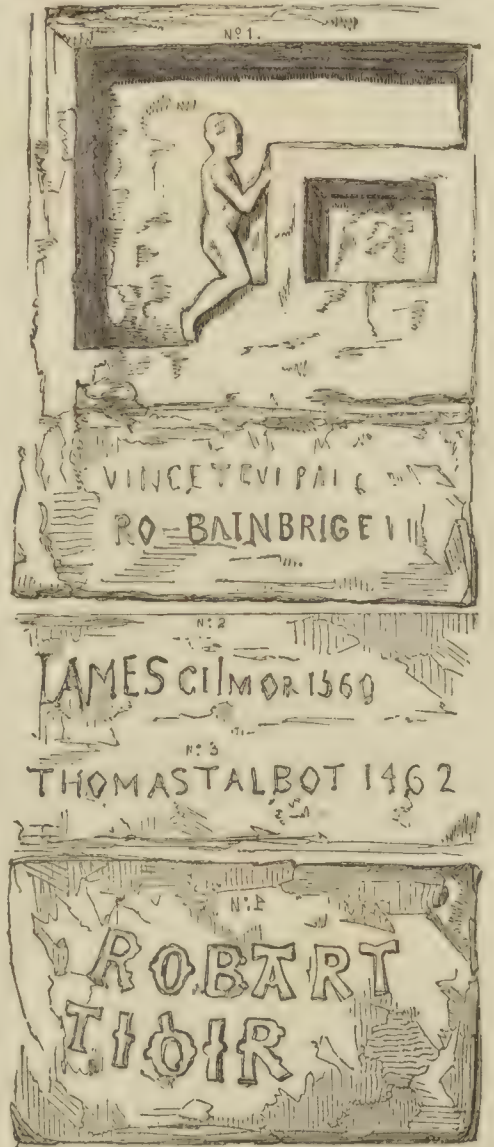
You that these beasts do not behold and see,
May deem with ease wherefore here made they be;
With borders eke within there may be found,
Four brothers' names, who list to search the ground
The words printed in italics are unfinished on the



INSCRIPTION OF LADY JANE GREY.

stone, and are added as above by Bayley, the historian of the Tower:—

A reference to Sir Walter Scott's novels of the "Fortunes of Nigel" and "Peveril of the Peak," shows that their distinguished author had made himself acquainted with the various portions of the Tower. The lower right-hand inscription is one of several bearing the name of Peveril. The wheat-sheaves are the armorial bearings of the Peverils of Derbyshire. It is by no means unlikely that, on the sight of these stones, Sir Walter Scott formed the plan of his novel. The room, above the entrance of the Bloody Tower, in which the young Princes are



INSCRIPTIONS IN THE BEAUCHAMP TOWER.

use, except to conceal an observer from the prisoners, which may have afforded the idea of the "lug" in which James I. ensconced himself.

Many other sad histories might be given of those whose hands cut the markings on the walls of the Beauchamp Tower, which have been made to look almost as perfect as when first executed: even the chisel-marks in the sunk parts are distinctly visible.



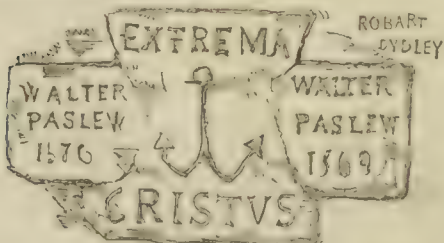
INSCRIPTION OF THOMAS PEVERIL.

Our space, however, prevents us from doing more than to recommend a visit to the place, which will, we believe, be soon open to the public; and, in the meantime, refer them to Bayley's History of the Tower; and to a work containing careful copies of all the carvings and other particulars, just published by Mr. Dick, the gentleman who has so ably superintended the work of restoration. The Beauchamp Tower has been used as a prison for male offenders only. A short time since, a door of ancient oak, knotted with iron, was below the plaster: this door opened to the



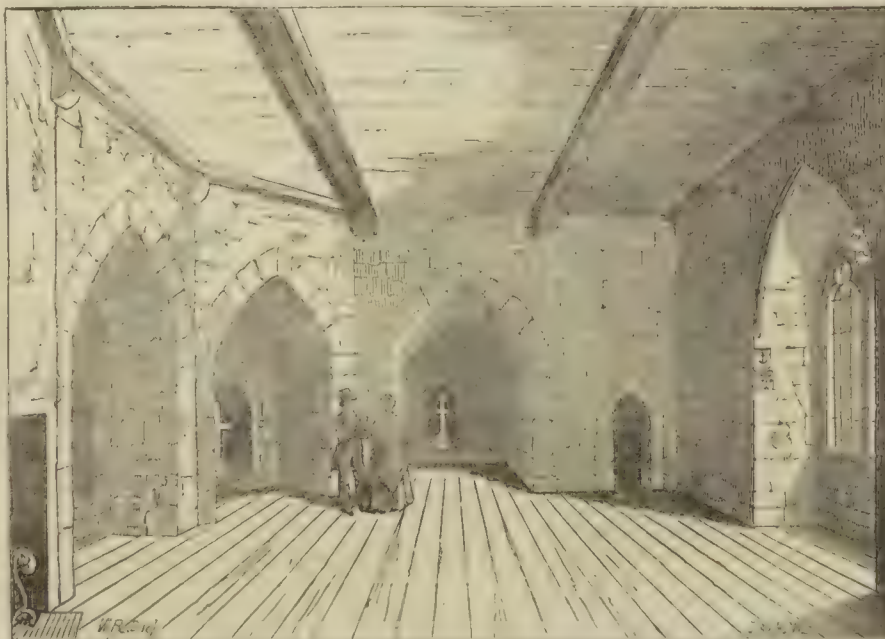
PARAPET WHERE THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH WALKED.

to their information and taste to former times. The apertures of the Traitor's Gate have now for many years been hidden from the public by thick planks of wood. The object in doing so was said to form a bath for the soldiers in the garrison; it has, however, for years not been used for this purpose, and many persons are thus prevented from having the opportunity of inspecting the place, and at the same time it is closed without use or benefit. Trusting that the authorities of the Tower will remedy this, we gladly pass to another part of the ancient building, which has been skilfully saved from ruin and decay, and which forms the subject of the accompanying illustrations.



INSCRIPTIONS OF WALTER PASLEW AND ROBERT DUDLEY.

The Beauchamp Tower derived its name from Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who was imprisoned therein in 1397. It consists of three apartments, one above the other, besides a few small passages and cells. The lower room is partly below the ground, and must have been a dismal place of imprisonment. A circular staircase leads to the other apartments, in which have been confined so many eminent individuals. Many of these have here endeavoured to shorten the tedious hours by records on the stone walls of their names and sentiments; and hard must be the heart which could look unmoved at many of the inscriptions. Until a short time since the Beau-



STATE PRISON-ROOM IN THE BEAUCHAMP TOWER.



THE INDIAN LIONS, IN THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENT'S-PARK.

terrace shown in the Engraving, leading to the Bell Tower, in which the Princess Elizabeth, Lady Jane Grey, and other distinguished prisoners were confined. But little change has taken place in so much of the scene as is presented to our readers since that time—when, probably, it was used as a promenade by those celebrated individuals—except that the walls are more begrimed by the smoke of “sea-coal” fires, and that the bustle of the Thames is increased in a wonderful degree. We may mention, in conclusion, that the place pointed to by the figures in the exterior View of the Beauchamp Tower is the spot on which the scaffold was placed for the execution of Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, and others.

We have omitted to mention the inscriptions engraved at the foot of the left-hand column; and on the left-hand side as you enter the Beauchamp Tower, on the ground-floor. These are, first, an inscription by “Walter Paslew,” dated “1569” and “1570:” “Extrema Christus” (my hope is in Christ). “No authentic account,” says Mr. Dick, “is given of this person.” In 1537, we read of a John Paslew, Abbot of Whalley, in Lancashire, being apprehended for his part in the rebellion called the Pilgrimage of Greece, and executed March 12, 1537. Near to the device of “Paslew,” we find “Robert Dvdeley.” This nobleman was the third son of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, who was arraigned for high treason in 1553, was condemned, and beheaded on Tower-hill. At his death, his sons were still left in confinement; and Robert was, in 1554, arraigned at Guildhall, on the plea of high treason, and condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. He lay under this sentence until the following year, when he and his two brothers, Ambrose and Henry, were liberated by command of Queen Mary, and afterwards rose into high favour at the Courts of Mary and Elizabeth.

The historical notices in Mr. Dick's work have been collected with much care from State papers, records, and other authentic sources; and the devices and inscriptions are very neatly lithographed from Mr. Dick's drawings; rendering the publication highly acceptable to archaeologists and lovers of historic relics.

THE INDIAN LIONS, AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS IN THE REGENT'S-PARK.

Lions were formerly abundant throughout Northern India, but the hunting exploits of the English during the last fifty years have so reduced their numbers, that they now only exist in two or three districts, and even there they are found but rarely.

The Indian Lion is, therefore, one of those animals whose extinction will probably happen in our own time—just as wolves have ceased to live in the British islands, as the moa has disappeared in New Zealand, and the dodo in Mauritius. Although this destruction of a certain number of the inferior animals seems to be the inevitable result of the extension of human civilisation, we cannot but look with intense interest and some regret upon the creatures which are thus passing, or have passed, out of the catalogue of animated nature.

The Indian or Asiatic Lion has been supposed by naturalists to constitute a distinct and separate species from those which abound in Africa. But as the Asiatic Lions differ among themselves in appearance, quite as much as the different local races in Africa, that question is one which admits of considerable doubt.

The Goojerat race of Lions, to which the present specimens belong is remarkable for the comparative scantiness and erect direction of the mane, the peculiar carriage of the tail, and the large size of the tail-tuft. They are unusually fine specimens, the male being three feet four inches in height at the shoulder; and they are unquestionably a most valuable and interesting addition to the magnificent series of carnivorous animals which have long made so effective a feature in the Zoological Society's collection.

The actual rarity of Lions in India has hitherto interposed insuperable difficulties in the way of obtaining any from that country, although the supposed difference of species rendered the acquisition of living specimens extremely desirable in a scientific as well as in a popular point of view. But difficulties have of late years ceased to interrupt the progress of the Zoological Society; and at last we have a pair of Asiatic Lions, in full health, and in the flower of their age—they being now, according to the account of the voluble old Mussulman who has accompanied them throughout the Overland journey, about four years old. They are perfectly under the control of this man, who exercises an influence over them by no means less remarkable than that which Van Amburgh, Carter, Charles, and the other disciples of Morok used to exhibit to the wondering town. It is probable, however, that the ascendancy of Ferid Khan was obtained in a very different way, for his is simply that of benevolence. At the hunt, in which the mother of these animals was killed, one of the beaters found them in her lair, apparently about three days old. They were there and then placed in charge of Ferid Khan, and he never allowed any other hand than his own to feed them up to the time of their arrival in England.

For this noble acquisition, the Society is indebted to the liberality of Sir Erskine Perry, formerly Chief Justice of Bombay, through whose

influence they were obtained from the native Prince who captured them, and at whose expense the animals were brought down some 350 miles from the interior to Bombay.

THE ALLIGATORS IN THE GARDENS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, REGENT'S-PARK.

THERE is now an admirable opportunity of seeing the large Alligators belonging to the Zoological Society, which have recently been placed in a spacious tank, prepared for their winter quarters, in the Aquavivarium. During the summer and autumn the Alligators were so frequently under water in the pond which they inhabited, that scarcely one in a thousand of the visitors was fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of them.

The Alligators, represented in our Illustration, are both of the North American species, and were captured in Carolina. Their natural habit is to bury themselves in mud at the beginning of winter, and there to remain in a torpid state until the approach of spring, when they emerge

in an emaciated condition to recommence their life of rapine in the rivers and swamps, where they occasionally swarm in almost incredible numbers. In accordance with this impulse of nature, the Society's Alligators, at the present moment, are almost devoid of active motion and although respiration is certainly not suspended, it goes on but languidly and at prolonged intervals.

It will be extremely interesting to watch the return of vigour to these huge reptiles as the spring sun begins to exercise its influence upon them. Their plump sides speak satisfactorily of the effect of the good cheer which they enjoyed in the autumn; and, as there is now every probability of their surviving the winter, we may hope to see them make rapid advances in size. They are already, by far, the largest which have been seen alive in this country—the oldest of the two already measuring about ten feet in length, and promising, before long, to be at least equal in dimensions to that specimen so “famed in story,” on which Mr. Waterton performed his equestrian feat on the Essequibo, and which still adorns, with crowning interest, the admirably-prepared Museum at Walton Hall.



ALLIGATORS, IN THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S MENAGERIE.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The Commissioners of Emigration have given notice that they require three vessels to be ready to carry passengers to Sydney on the 21st, Hobart Town on the 24th, and Adelaide on the 28th March next.

The Royal Commissioners appointed to inquire into the cause of the late outbreak of cholera at Newcastle-on-Tyne will resume the inquiry about the middle of this month.

In its sitting of the 31st ult., the Piedmontese Chamber of Deputies passed the bill for the abolition of the lottery, by a majority of 98 votes to 6.

The shipwrecks that occurred during the last month were greater in number than have been known to have happened in so short a period for the last 16 years. Upwards of 300 losses were announced in Lloyd's book, with the sacrifice of 700 lives.

The Speaker has appointed the following members of the House of Commons to serve on the General Committee of Elections:—Sir G. Grey, Mr. Walpole, Mr. J. W. Patten, Mr. R. Palmer, Sir R. Ferguson, and Mr. Bramston.

Sir Massey Lopes, the son of the deceased Baronet, is to marry the daughter of Sir John Bulwer, as soon as the time for mourning shall have passed away.—*Western Times*.

It is said that the Infante Don Enrique has received permission to return to Spain, and will take up his residence at Valencia.

Mr. Thomas Bazley, the late President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, having been prevailed on to withdraw his resignation, has been unanimously elected by the new Board.

The night force of the Glasgow police are about to apply to the Police Committee for permission to wear the moustache. During the late inclement weather the men who were least accustomed to exposure to the night air were much affected with colds and ailments of the throat, and it was with difficulty suitable substitutes could be procured.

It is said there are 21,487 blind persons in the whole of Great Britain.

No fewer than 153 coal-laden vessels were entered on Saturday at the Custom house, with cargoes amounting, in the aggregate, to 8000 tons of coals for household consumption. It is said this will cause a reduction of 4s. per ton.

The silk trade is in a flourishing condition at St. Etienne, in France. In 1852 the quantity of silk used was 632,000 kilogrammes, being 20,000 kilogrammes more than in 1852, and 184,000 kilogrammes more than in 1846.

An American dealer in ready-made linen advertises his shirts and chemises under the delicate appellation of "male and female envelopes."

Baron Pennefather is not sufficiently recovered from his late indisposition to go the Irish spring circuit. His place will be filled by Mr. Serjeant O'Brien.

Mr. Goalen, the principal of the audit department of the London and North-Western Railway Company, has been given into custody on a charge of extensive frauds amounting to £5000 or £6000.

A most seasonable relief has been afforded to the poor, by the arrival of a great number of colliers at Portsmouth, as well as a multitude of fishing craft. Coals are now only 30s. per ton, and mackerel are twelve a shilling.

It is now necessary that travellers to France should be provided with passports, verified by the agents of France in England.

McKay, the Royal piper, and Smith, the Royal policeman, who both went mad on Friday week last, are pronounced incurable. The one is sent to Bedlam, and the other to St. Luke's.

The promoters of the Institution of the Guild of Literature and Art have made an application to Parliament for leave to deposit a petition for an act.

Many persons having been much disappointed in driving to Ealing Park, to consult Mr. Lawrence, it should be known that he is in the country on Sundays only; on every other day he is in Whitehall-place.

A Chinese, by name Alleine Kimoyang, who served in his native dress in a tea-dealer's shop in Leeds, has been committed for trial for stealing £120 from his master, Mr. Richardson.

The national balance-sheet for 1853 has been issued. The income of the year amounted to £54,400,344, the expenditure to £51,174,539; showing a surplus of £3,225,805.

The telegraphic lines between Turin and Lombardy were to be opened to private correspondence on the 10th instant.

The petition from the citizens of London to the Corporation for the removal of Temple Bar, which was numerous signed, was presented at the Court of Common Council on Thursday last.

The *Limerick Chronicle* says that the family and friends of William Smith O'Brien entertain a well-grounded hope of his free pardon before the end of the present year.

The Municipal Council of Paris have voted the erection of an hospice for young girls in the Faubourg St. Antoine, which is to be under the patronage of the Empress Eugenie.

A refiner in Greenock recently boiled up fifty tons of brown West India sugar, from which he extracted three tons of clay!

There are at this moment in the French navy 2 admirals, 11 vice-admirals, 20 rear-admirals, 36 captains of the first class, 74 captains of the second class, and 227 captains of frigates—in all, 370 superior officers.

Sir George Rose, the Master charged with the winding-up of the affairs of the Marylebone Banking Company, has ordered a call of £34 per share, payable on the 15th of March.

Tapner, the Guernsey murderer, has given the clergyman a paper, stating that he alone was guilty of the crime for which he was condemned.

It is reported that some important alterations are to be made with respect to the admissions to Winchester School. Stricter examinations are to be made, and wealth and power will cease to have such influence in admissions as hitherto.

A recent return to Parliament shows that, from the 1st January, 1843, to the 31st December last, the coinage at the Mint amounted to £32,501,356 1s. 4d. The gold coinage in the six years was £31,216,504 12s. 6d.; the silver coinage, £1,263,139 12s. 10d.; and the copper coinage, £21,381 16s.

The *Piedmontese Gazette* publishes a series of very severe regulations concerning masquerades during the Carnival. No one is to be allowed to walk in the street with a mask, or in masquerade dress without a special licence.

The importance of the Australian trade is such, that no less than 1200 vessels, or more, sailed from England and Ireland, averaging 572,000 tons, which probably carried out upwards of 700,000 tons of goods, during the past year.

The grand eight-oared match between the two Universities will take place in the Easter vacation, at Putney. The Oxford crew is partly selected, and some of them have already commenced active training.

Among the recent new patents is one to A. T. Wagner, of Berlin, professor of music, for the invention of "a psychograph, or apparatus for indicating persons' thoughts by the agency of nervous electricity."

The director of police at Milan has issued a notice, dated the 1st, in which, after stating that the enemies of order are again spreading false news, he warns such persons that they are liable to be tried by court-martial.

The heavy contract for rum, just announced by the Admiralty, has sent up the price again. The last contract only bought 10,000 gallons, whilst 30,000 gallons were taken; and now 40,000 gallons are to be tendered for, and probably much more may be taken.

The Marquis of Thomond has recently presented to her Majesty for the Admiralty-house at Portsmouth, three full-length valuable portraits, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of King George III., King William IV., and one of his late R.H. the Duke of York.

Letters from Madrid state that the young Princess of Asturias, the only surviving child of the Queen of Spain, is dangerously ill. Her death would again open the succession to the Duchess of Montpensier.

It is understood that all the large game preservers in the neighbourhood of Maidstone are about to discharge their keepers, and give up the occupation of preserving.

The corporation of Gravesend have purchased a fire-engine, of the same powerful construction as those of London, which will be transported to the market-place, where already two others are stationed.

Early on Friday week, Mr. R. Leicester, of Cambridge-villas, Cheltenham, while attending the Bachelors' ball, at the Assembly-rooms, was suddenly seized with a fit, and died in about ten minutes.

The Duke of Newcastle is giving employment to a large number of persons, in building cottages for the labouring poor on his estates, and in draining and fencing.

The Edinburgh opera season came to a termination on Saturday, after a most successful campaign.

The Darlington Local Board of Health has adopted a memorial to the Earl of Atherton, praying that Darlington may be one of the newly-created boroughs under the Reform Bill.

The *Norma*, a Russian vessel, from Lisbon to Ollenburg, with a valuable cargo, was wrecked on the Goodwin Sands on Tuesday.

A measure for the registration of births, marriages, and deaths in Scotland is said to be in course of preparation.

VALENTINE'S DAY.

A POET'S VALENTINE.

BY MRS. T. K. HERVEY.

I HAVE not wooed thee as the many woo;
I have not cast my heart beneath thy feet:
I loved thee with a spirit proud and true;
And if my words have seemed nor smooth, nor sweet,
It is that these poor pulses stay their beat
To pause upon the music of thy tongue!
Silence and Truth, dear love! do oft-times meet:
Even hope, scarce quickened, falters and dies young,
As chords will snap asunder when a lyre is newly strung.

But hold me in thy patience yet awhile:
The heavens do hear me oft when thou art far—
If far thou canst be where my heavens smile.
I never likened thee unto a star,
Or told thee thou wert what the angels are;—
Angels are pitiful, and thou art not:
The whiteness of thy soul thou wouldst not mar,
And on its stainless mirror 'twere a blot
If love's most noble claim to love, in pity, were forgot.

True souls do ask no guerdon save the bliss
Of purely loving that which is most pure;
It is the virgin's robe whose hem we kiss,
Not the stage mantle, worn but to allure:
And thou in thy heart's singleness art sure
The joy of loving thee may well atone
For all thy coldness calls me to endure.
Right-seated love is likest on its throne
To souls enshrined upon dead lips—that smile, but make no moan.

Freed from its once apparel of the clay,
The wakened soul stands beautiful and mute,
Like to a sun new-risen to the day,
Whose glorious orb puts off night's mourning suit.
The worn husk droppeth from the ripened fruit.
Scant is the earth where mountain pines abound;
So love is best, though starving at the root,
Whose higher life is by the sunbeams crowned:
So larks sing sweet in upper air, though mute on grassy ground.

When, one by one, the silent moonbeams climb
Those airy heights which only lovers know,
And, fainting on the barren steps of Time,
The beggared heart can see to count its woe,
Comfort falls soft as footsteps on the snow!
Then to my side thy spirit steals unsought;
And, heedless how the night-tides ebb and flow,
We two, love-armed, do set the hours at naught,
Watching the quiet stars die out with a most raptured thought.

Thou canst not see me with thine earthly eyes,
Thou canst not feel my hand upon thy brow;
Yet, nestling on my heart thy beauty lies,
More real far than I behold thee now.
My waking life is one unanswered vow;
But in deep dreams, my sweet! this is not so:
My spirit-kiss thy spirit doth allow.
Thou see'st my joy, as those who Northward go
See waters rise among the wolds, yet know not whence they flow

And thou dost marvel at the quiet thought
Which makes a greenness wheresoever I tread:
The summer garlands into beauty wrought,
Do babble not of where their bloom was fed.
Blessed the dews that are in silence shed!
The flower wherein the wild bee dives at noon,
Will drop its petals when its sweets are fled:
My years would drop so withered and so soon;
The life that lacked love's secret sweet were but a thankless boon.

And now when Love stands crowned among the saints,
For this one day my heart is fain to speak,
Though the pulse trembles and the spirit faints,
To feel how breath is frail and words are weak,
To sum the measure of the wealth I seek!
If I do wrong, O, tenderest soul! forbear
To chide me with the glow upon thy cheek.
I would not owe thy love to my despair:
Love's seed doth root and flourish best sown by the random air.

Go! fling thy tresses on the winds of morn,
And let the stars be mirrored in thine eye;
Better I died, heart-blinded by thy scorn,
Than thou shouldst live the slave unto a sigh!
Like those untrammelled flowers that round thee lie,
Free in their inmost breath, shouldst thou be free:
So, till thy soul to Love's fair shore draws nigh,
True as a billow of the unlash'd sea,
No craven wish of mine shall stand 'twixt thy sweet will and thee.

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION.—The Council of the Society of Arts have determined to hold an educational exhibition in the month of June, of the present year, when the conference of the representatives of its various affiliated institutions, now amounting to 335 in number, will take place. The council have already sought the aid of her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for the Colonies, with the view of obtaining models of the schools of primary instruction approved by the Departments of Public Instruction in France, Holland, Prussia, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Canada, and at Washington, New York, or Massachusetts; and specimens of every article ordered to be used in the different classes of schools recognised by each State; as well as of the writing, drawing, needlework, printed examination papers, &c., done in the schools. The council have also asked to be furnished with copies of the codes of public instruction in force in each country, and they promise to publish, at the time of the exhibition, an English synopsis of the whole. Letters have also been addressed to the large educational bodies and Government departments dealing with this subject in this country, claiming their co-operation in the undertaking.

POST-OFFICE LETTERS.—The great increase in the last fourteen years in chargeable letters delivered in the United Kingdom is shown by a return issued on Saturday. In 1850 the number delivered was 347,000,000, being an increase on the previous year of 9,500,000. In 1851 the number was 360,500,000; increase, 13,500,000. In 1852 the number was 379,500,000; increase, 19,000,000. And last year 411,000,000 letters were delivered; being an increase of 31,500,000.

ROMAN REMAINS IN THE CITY.—The workmen at the Old Excise-office, Broad-street, came upon a piece of tessellated pavement remaining *in situ* the other day, and, in consequence of the precautions suggested, they were enabled to remove the ruins and rubbish without injury. This pavement has been subsequently cleared out to some extent, and has disclosed work of considerable beauty. It was found about thirteen feet below the surface, and at least eighteen inches below the lowest foundations of the Excise-office—one of the very heaviest walls having been built across it. The piece at present cleared out is the centre of the border of a large pavement belonging to an apartment probably thirty feet square. The pattern is a bold representation of leaves and flowers in their natural colour, executed in the usual way.

Since the establishment of the life-boat system in Jutland and Bornholm, a year ago, 115 lives have been saved—72 by the help of the ricket; and, so far as is known, not a soul has been lost along the Danish shores.

TOWN AND TABLE-TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

THE great grandson of the illustrious author of "Robinson Crusoe" is alive, and in great poverty—in poverty arising from no misconduct his own, but from misfortune and its unwelcome ally, old age. It is enough, one would think, to mention the circumstance—and to obtain for him with ease that bare sufficiency which he seeks. He is in his seventy-seventh year, and is the De Foe, of Hungerford-market, mentioned by Wilson, in his painstaking life of the great novelist. His case has been inquired into by Mr. Charles Knight, and a sum of money has been raised by him, chiefly among literary men, that will, with a little more assistance, be sufficient to provide for his very moderate wishes and wants. The great-grandson of the man who has given so much to all ages of Englishmen is content and happy at Kennington, with a relief of £2 a month. Mr. Charles Dickens has been (as might be expected) amongst the most liberal subscribers to the little fund. If everybody who has derived delight from the perusal of "Robinson Crusoe" would but contribute a single farthing to his descendant, that descendant would become a wealthy man. When Mr. De Foe was asked, the other day, what he knew of his great ancestor's writings, he answered to the point, and observed (without any intentional comment on the reputation of the great novelist), that in his happier days he had several of De Foe's works; but that he never could keep a copy of "Robinson Crusoe;" "there were so many borrowers of the book in Hungerford-market alone."

The gold coin of Mithridates, for which the late Mr. Edmonds gave £115, as we chronicled in a column a few weeks back, was sold at Sotheby's the other day, to General Fox, for £60. The General was a competitor for the coin when bought in 1838 by Mr. Edmonds. A little competition at a sale often carries an article to more perhaps than it ought to bring.

The printed correspondence between Mr. Croker and Lord John Russell has assumed a private character, and has run into some three or four brief paper pellets, in which there is some sharp firing. The paper war, however, is not likely to take a martial turn; nor is the correspondence (from what we have heard) likely to appear for the present in print. Both parties insist on occupying the ground they originally took.

The leading dignitaries of the law have taken an unusual turn of late to notice Mr. Dickens in their speeches. Vice-Chancellor Sir Page Wood, in an after-dinner speech at the Mansion-house, during the late Mayoralty, thought proper to defend the Court of Chancery from the Jarndyce attack in "Bleak House;" and Lord Campbell, in court, the other day (and with his wig on) expressed his regret that Mr. Dickens had not attended to his summons on a special jury. Having finished his Chancery suit, his Lordship observed, Mr. Dickens, by attending, might have added to his knowledge of a suit at common law. The Lord Chief Justice seemed unwilling to fine the distinguished novelist for his non-attendance.

Two sales are about to take place, at which collectors, who will possess, will be obliged to bid liberally. The choice collection of old china, of the late Mr. Bidwell, is advertised for sale; and the highly-interesting private library of Mr. Pickering, the eminent bookseller, will be among the scatterments of March. Mr. Pickering's library is especially rich in its illustrations of Walton and Cotton's Angler. Our piscatorial friends must be alive and liberal if they wish to hook the choicer articles.

The committee appointed to decide on the pedestal for the Peel Statue to be erected in the city of London, met last week to consider the design which Mr. Behnes, the sculptor, had made and had erected, of the size intended, in the City Green-yard, in Whitecross-street. It is no easy task to make a fine statue, and scarcely less easy is it to design an appropriate pedestal. We have very few fine pedestals in London—none, indeed, even ordinarily good, excepting the Charles I. at Charing-cross, and the Pitt, in Hanover-square. The committee suggested several alterations, and there will be a temporary trial of the proposed pedestal on the site selected for the statue. This, we think, a wise precaution.

Authors of eminence, in the hurry of writing, or rather, perhaps, in the ardour of composition, often fall into strange errors. Mr. Macaulay, in two editions of his History, placed the execution of Lord Russell on Tower-hill; whereas, it took place in Lincoln's Inn Fields. Sir Archibald Alison, in the volume just published of his "History," talks of the children of Catherine of Arragon, and gravely informs his readers that Locke was expelled from Cambridge; whereas, if there is any one fact about the University of Oxford better known than another, it is Locke's expulsion from Oxford. We will not lay any great stress on these slips of Sir Archibald; but surely they should suggest to these authors some little indulgence to the slips of others.

We have seen some of the recent discoveries about Grinling Gibbons to which we called attention a few weeks back. Two are especially curious. The altar in the Chapel at Hampton Court was the altar of King James's Catholic Chapel, at Whitehall: the "Works Accounts," containing a payment to Gibbons of £130, "for taking down the marble altar-piece, with the columns, ornaments, and figures thereto belonging, in the late King James the Second's Chapel, at Whitehall; and loading the same into barges, and delivering thereof at Hampton Court, according to contract." This discovery will invest the Hampton Court altar-piece with historical interest. Not less curious is the discovery of a payment to Gibbons by Charles II., of £150, "for an extraordinary piece of carved work, made and carved by him for his Majesty, and sent by his Majesty as a present to the Duke of Florence." What was the carving, and where is it now?

The act for the abolition of the present Will-offices throughout the three kingdoms might be made of the utmost service to literature, by the insertion of a clause directing the removal of every will to the London office of the Registrar-General. Our Will-offices abound in matter of great biographical importance, illustrative of the lives of eminent men, of the descent of property, and of the manners and customs of by-gone times. But they are far from accessible, and are hedged in with restraints and fees that render them comparatively useless. Some one called (not unhappily) the Wills preserved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury "our best 'Biographia Britannica.'" Give the charge of all our Wills to Major Graham, our present able Registrar-General, and they will soon be in order, and accessible to all.

DEPUTATIONS TO MINISTERS.—A deputation from the Protestant Dissenting Deputies of the Three Denominations had an interview with Viscount Palmerston on Tuesday, on the abolition of church rates, the Dissenters' Marriage Acts Amendment Bill, and the Places of Religious Worship Registration Bill. On the same day the Home Secretary gave an interview to a deputation from the Military Knights of Windsor, touching certain claims now awaiting the decision of Parliament; to a deputation from the Philanthropic Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Offenders; and to a deputation on the subject of the Militia.

THE COTTON COMMERCE.—Last year the United States of America took an increase of 1½ per cent; Germany, Russia, and Holland, an increase of 7½ per cent, and an increase of 31 per cent went to the shores of the Mediterranean. On the other hand, to Great Britain there was a decrease of 1½ per cent, a decrease to France of 2½ per cent, to Spain a decrease of 4½ per cent, and to countries bordering on the Adriatic a decrease of 18 per cent.

RECIPE FOR MAKING CHEAP FUEL.—Get half a peck of clay, or stiff loam; make it soft with water; then put one pack of small coal to it, and mix them well together, until you can roll it into several parts, like pieces of charcoal or long eggs. Any other combustible may be added, and mixed up with the above, such as sawdust, tanners' waste bark, curriers' shavings, &c. As much can be made in an hour as would last several days.—*Chemical Essays*.

MUSIC.

Mr. STERNDALÉ BENNETT has, for the last ten years, given an annual series of concerts of classical pianoforte music, which have been attended by great and yearly increasing numbers of the most distinguished amateurs, of both sexes, in London. They have not only been beneficial to an estimable individual and an eminent artist, but have been of the utmost advantage to the art itself, by presenting to the public, in the most attractive form, the most pure and masterly compositions for this fashionable instrument. Our amateurs are thus taught to appreciate and enjoy the beautiful works of the great masters, and to estimate at their real worth the glittering frivolities which have so long been in vogue, but which, we are happy to believe, are now yielding to the influence of a better taste. Mr. Bennett's first concert was on Tuesday evening, at the Hanover-square Rooms. An enumeration of its contents will be quite sufficient to give a musical reader an idea of its nature and quality. It began with Dussek's Quintet in F minor, for the pianoforte, violin, tenor, violoncello and double-bass, performed by Messrs. Bennett, Blagrove, Dando, Piatti, and Reynolds. Then Mr. Bennett played two preludes and fugues—the one by Handel the other by Mendelssohn. Next he performed, along with Piatti, Beethoven's Sonata in F, for piano and violoncello. These pieces, with Winter's air, "O Glove Omnipotent," sung by Mrs. Lockey, made up the first part of the concert. In the second, Mr. Bennett played, first, some of his own preludes and lessons, composed for the use of Queen's College; next, with Mr. Blagrove, Mozart's Sonata in A, for the piano and violin; and, lastly, Beethoven's Sonata, No. 2, of Op. 27, for the pianoforte solo. Mrs. Lockey sang two of Mr. Bennett's own vocal pieces, "Dawn, gentle flower," and "Musing on the roaring ocean." Mr. Bennett's attachment to the highest and purest forms of his art is apparent from this selection. He showed admirable taste and judgment in bringing forward Dussek's quintet—one of the finest works of a great master of the last century, whose charming music has long been too much neglected for the ephemeral things of the day; and also in producing Mozart's beautiful Sonata for the piano and violin. Neither of these pieces had been heard in public for very many years; and it was evident, from the demonstrations of pleasure with which they were listened to, that they had all the charm of novelty. Mr. Bennett's own short pieces, composed for the use of his pupils at Queen's College are, truly, little gems, equally delightful to the ear and improving to the taste of the young performer. Of Mr. Bennett's qualities as a performer—his style, expression, and execution—it would be superfluous to speak; and such artists as Blagrove and Piatti stand as little in need of eulogy.

This week's WEDNESDAY CONCERT had one great attraction, the appearance of Miss Louisa Pyne, the most pleasing and popular of all our English singers. Her presence had an evident effect on the aspect of the hall, which was much better filled than it has been at these Concerts for a considerable time. Miss Pyne sang with even more than her usual brilliancy. Her performance of the bravura air, "Ah, je veux briser ma chaîne," in Auber's "Diamant de la Couronne," was a marvellous display of voice and execution; and nothing could be sweeter than her warbling of the famous polacca in the "Puritani." Her reception, of course, was enthusiastic. The concert, in other respects, was of a very ordinary kind, without a single remarkable feature.

EXPECTATIONS of an English Opera in London this season have revived; not, however, at Drury-lane, but at the Lyceum, for which theatre Mr. Case, it is said, has entered into an engagement with Mr. Allcroft; whilst he is, at the same time, proceeding against the lessee of Drury-lane for breach of the previous engagement for that theatre. On the faith of the treaty with Mr. Smith, we know for certain that Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, Madame Clara Novello, and Miss Louisa Pyne, were all engaged as members of the proposed Drury-lane company.

THE CONCERTS of the New Philharmonic Society are to be given this season at St. Martin's Hall, instead of Exeter Hall, where they have been hitherto held. Herr Lindpainter is again engaged as the conductor.

HARMONIC UNION.—EXETER-HALL.—Handel's "Acis and Galatea" is announced for performance next Monday, when Mozart's accompaniments to this favourite cantata are to be heard for the first time in this country. A novelty of great interest.

MADAME GOLDSCHMIDT (Jenny Lind) is not coming to England this season, after all. The reason assigned is the prospect of war; but how this prospect should deter an artist from visiting England just now, we confess ourselves unable to understand.

MIDLE WAGNER has been appointed Royal "chamber-singer" to the King of Prussia.

A POOR, uninstructed youth, a sand-heaver on the river Arno, is now making a great sensation at Florence. Rossini has heard him sing, and declares that he is the finest baritone he ever heard.

THE THEATRES.

MARYLEBONE.

On Monday evening this theatre, for the first time under its present excellent management, produced a revival, with full accessories—including entirely new scenery and costumes—by way of example of the manner in which it is proposed that the legitimate drama at this theatre shall be produced. In the present instance—whether we revert to the getting up, or the acting—we have but to make a report of singular excellence, and a completeness in all points, deserving of general admiration. Mrs. Wallack performed *Ion*, as we understood for the first time, and displayed, in the impersonation, a perfect sympathy, both with the poetry of the part and of the dialogue. Voice, action, attitude, were all expressly suited to the character and situation, and presented an embodiment of transcendent beauty. The Temple youth, with his pious farces, and ideal aspirations after liberty; with his love for *Cleopatra*, hatred of tyranny, and pity for the tyrant—all these promptings and imagings of a true and loving spirit—had, in this charming actress, the liveliest expression. All was at once tender and classical; the statue glowed in the sunlight, and filled the air with influence. Mr. Wallack performed *Adrastus*—a part which affords opportunity to a picturesque actor for many effects. Its present representative availed himself of more than the usual number, and frequently with the happiest results. The story of his destiny was grandly told—the assumption of his Royal dignity; his disdainful wrath, on the receipt of the oracle; and the heroic *abandon* with which he submits to destiny, were all amply interpreted and profusely illustrated by the actor. The air of wild recognition with which he learns that the hand so lately raised against him is that of his long-lost son, was truly assumed. Altogether, it was felt that this revival of *Ion* is a managerial triumph, and will calculated to advance the reputation of the theatre. It was well and fashionably attended.

HAYMARKET.

Miss Cushman performed *Meg Merrilies* on Monday, with all her usual power and success. The supremacy of the actress in the part has long been acknowledged; and it is one which it may be fairly conceded she has made her own. Miss Cushman has, indeed, to be fairly accredited with the idea, as well as with its interpretation; for the text of the character in the play is not at all suggestive of the peculiar being which Miss Cushman has created for the scene. Weirduke and terrible, inspiring us first with awe, and afterwards causing the heart to thrill with human emotion in the presence of the domestic affections, true to the last, tried by the fiercest ordeal, and suffering death on account of an inviolable fidelity—Miss Cushman's *Meg Merrilies* is at once an ideal and a reality, for which she will continue to receive high praise. An ordinary melodramatic character has been elevated to a lofty tragic impersonation by the sole genius of the histrionic artist. Doubtless, thereby, the dramatic art receives some shame, and we can but wish that the poet had also been called into requisition. For this, however, the actress is not responsible; but that past system of stage management which encouraged the production of pieces with popular titles, but of no intrinsic merit. We have but to add that Miss Julia Harland is engaged for the part of *Lucy Bertram*, and sang with her usual science and taste.

Mr. W. S. Woodin's "CARPET-BAG AND SKETCH-BOOK."—Mr. Woodin has at length returned to the metropolis, after a successful provincial career, and may now be found delighting his admirers at the Regent Gallery, 69, Quadrant (where we had, some weeks ago, announced he would be). He has added to his entertainment some new jests, some new songs, and some new characters; omitting some old and outworn ones; and, in other respects, has accomplished several improvements. He has also learned to manage more quickly his changes of costume, and has become easier in his assumptions. A new introductory song was much applauded. Among the additional characters are *Professor Foggo*, *Miss Flora Faddleton*, and *Mr. Dilberry Brown*. There

is also a story of an Irishman at a money-order office, which is exceedingly laughable, and which, we believe, is new. With so many fresh claims on public approbation, Mr. Woodin is likely, we think, to renew his lease of popularity, and to retain it for some lengthened period.

MR. LOVE'S NEW ENTERTAINMENT, "THE LONDON SEASON."—Mr. Love, the polyphonist, has, at length, given his new entertainment an airing in the metropolis; and, on Thursday week, appeared at the Marylebone Institution; and has also announced it for other places. It is entitled, as we have said, "The London Season;" and, in a light and elegant manner, and, at the same time, very humorously, describes the different characteristics alluded to. The lecture, which is written by Edward Copping, Esq., is exceedingly clever, and the wit with which it abounds is not only rich, but of that polished sort which befits a drawing-room audience. The new entertainment includes the assumption, in proper costume, of seven novel and most salient characters. The first is a modern Timon, *Mr. Narcissus Verigrine*, who is most unaccountably surprised with difficulties, having, in his own opinion, managed his matters with such laudable economy. These lead him to a money-lender, and introduce us to *Mr. Moses Mordecai*, whose disinterested regard for his clients is most tenderly displayed. Then a *Mr. Benjamin Billows* gives, in nautical phrase, a description of a debate he had heard in the House of Commons—highly whimsical and laugh-provoking. Next *Mrs. Oldstyle* counsels young people about to marry where to purchase their furniture; and *V. R. 0001*, a London cabman, with an extraordinary memory, gives to Mr. Love an opportunity for presenting one of the richest of his portraits. *Mr. Tranquilus Calm* next comes before us, and murmurs against a too-noisy world, the most ordinary business of which is too strong for his weak nerves. *Miss Ideltack* concludes the series, and gives a strange, rambling, confused, and inaccurate account of the celebrated spots and sights in London, including a critique on Mr. Love's own performances, conceived and executed in a delicate vein of good-natured railery—highly refreshing. Some extraordinary ventriloquial feats concluded each portion of the entertainment, which is divided into two parts, and met with the most decided approbation.

THE WAGES MOVEMENT.—The Preston masters, at a special meeting held on Wednesday, resolved to re-open their mills on the following day. In a placard published by them, they state that they have been induced to do so "in consequence of the greatly-increased disposition shown by the operatives to resume work since the meeting of the masters on the 26th of January." They promise that all persons desirous of obtaining employment may depend upon constant work, and remind the men that "the masters are pledged, and are fully determined, to protect them against any improper interference or molestation." The operatives held an open air meeting on Wednesday, and pledged themselves not to resume work till the ten per cent advance be granted.

FINE ARTS.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.—WORKS OF BRITISH ARTISTS

THE Fine Art season, according to long-established usage, opens with the Exhibition of the Works of British Artists at the British Institution; and although the leading artists of the day do not condescend to enter the lists there, others—many of considerable merit—appear before us with some of their best efforts, which are seen to good advantage in rooms of moderate dimensions, judiciously proportioned, and admirably lighted. Thus constituted, the Pall-mall Exhibition forms an agreeable lounge to the artist and amateur, who, besides the pleasure of indulging in their critical propensities, after long abstinence, have an opportunity of interchanging much gossip about the doings in the studio, and the prospects of the coming season. To the artist, a further point of no small consideration and interest occurs: the purse-strings of the patrons of art now begin to open; and the canvas upon which so much anxious study and patient labour have been bestowed, through a long winter, is now, perhaps, destined to receive that one finishing touch, before which all its other merits fade; that surest proof of exchangeable value—the little word "sold."

As the result of a general survey of the rooms, we should be inclined to say that the display this year presented is not so striking as many previous ones. We say this because, although there is enough of variety, and a fair average degree of merit, in most of the examples, there are no works of such decided interest, as regards the subjects, or such striking merit in the treatment, as to command universal recognition and remembrance as "the picture (or pictures) of the room." Of works in the historic school there are none—or none which we would wish to speak of. Landscapes, cattle pieces, still life, domestic and fanciful sketches, form the staple of the display: works all calculated to amuse the general public, and serve the purpose to which art, of late years, has so profitably directed its energies—that of house decoration.

Most prominent amongst the exhibitors are—Inskipp, who has three pictures, one—"The Coiners," in the place of honour; E. W. Cooke, sea pieces; Sant, two studies; Sir G. Hayter, "The Arrest of Cardinal Wolsey," and two others; Ansdell, animal subjects; Goodall, "Feeding the Swans;" Smythe, a clever picture—"An Eastern Story Teller;" Glass, "A Raid on the Scottish Border;" Gilbert, "Sancho Panza Informing his Wife of his Coming Dignity;" W. Wyld, "A View of the Port of Oran, in Algeria;" and, in landscape department, Creswick, Linnell, S. Percy, the Williamses, &c.

[We propose giving a detailed notice of this Exhibition, accompanied by Engravings of some of the pictures.]



DINNER OF THE IRISH INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, AT BONMAHON, WATERFORD.

IRISH INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

OF schools of industry, that for which we were least prepared, was a printing-school! but such has been established, and that with the greatest success, even in the wilds of Ireland! The Rev. D. A. Doudney, a Protestant Curate, seven years resident in Ireland, has proved of what the Irish character is capable, when well directed. We have engraved above a sketch of a dinner scene given in the little obscure sea-washed village of Bonmahon, county of Waterford, upon the completion of six large and closely-printed royal octavo volumes, the composition of which has been effected by "raw Irish lads," who, rather more than two years ago, had not so much as seen a printing-type! These youths have composed upwards of six thousand pages, have been liberally paid from the fifth week of their entrance; and, by this self-supporting establishment, their manners and appearance have undergone the most desirable change. Of this formidable undertaking, a contemporary says:—

"The year 1851, which saw assembled beneath the crystal covering of the World's Exhibition the gorgeous, tasteful, and ingenious products of the earth, held, for the thinking mind, nothing more suggestively interesting, more unpretendingly remarkable, than this valuable book, so singularly produced by the single-mindedness, the energy, and Christian zeal of a humble preacher in a secluded corner of a country, which, we must say, has never from its capital city, sent out a more creditable—if so complete—a specimen of neatness in an art popularly supposed to be exercised in perfection in its details only in the populous cities, which form the great centres of civilisation, mechanical skill, and comparative industry. Yet so it is, and lying before us, printed in a rude, uncouth neighbourhood, by the hands of a company of thirty 'raw Irish lads,' under the tuition and superintendence of a poor Protestant curate, we have five volumes of full royal 8vo size, in double columns, in clear and legible type, containing at least 1020 pages in each volume, to be followed by another (the concluding portion) of similar dimensions and beauty. We assure the reader, as practical men, that it is not the strangeness of its method of production that has induced our eulogy of its mechanical execution, and that none of the great houses of the metropolis need have disowned, for neatness, accuracy, and good presswork, the book that here

bears the imprimatur of a remote village school, and a village curate in the wilds of Ireland."

To the above has been added an Infant and a Girls' Working School, from the latter of which lies before us a most creditable specimen of embroidery, wrought by girls, who, four months since, could not handle a needle.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY OF BILLS OF EXCHANGE.—Louis Montaguard, son of a French merchant in London, went into the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, last Saturday evening, and remained there for about 24 hours, speaking broken English, but not having any apparently very well-defined object in view. After he was supposed to be alone, a Mr. Garneau, a Canadian merchant, who was staying at the hotel, went up to his bed-room, and found a man about the size of Montaguard, and wearing a moustache as he did, just coming out of the apartment. He asked him what he was doing there, and the man said he was seeking his room, the number of which he had forgotten. Mr. Garneau went down-stairs, and informed the housekeeper, who went with him at once and searched the room; and they found that a portmanteau had been cut open, and a bill of exchange for £1000, a set of shirt studs, a purse containing American money, and other property was abstracted. The man had then left the house. Information was immediately given to the police, and Mayberry and Mack, two of the most active of the detective force, were set upon the search, and on Sunday night they succeeded in apprehending Montaguard (without his moustache), as he was taking a train for Preston. When they came to search him they found upon him the bill of exchange lost by Mr. Garneau, and bills of exchange amounting in the whole to £7500, which had been stolen from the portmanteau of Mr. Chamberlain, another gentleman who was staying at the Queen's, who discovered on Sunday morning that his portmanteau had been cut open. Other portmanteaus had been cut open in other bed-rooms, and property stolen from them. It was proved that the man who had purchased a suit of clothes from Mr. Levi, outfitter, of Market-street, and paid for them with a twenty-dollar note—no doubt, part of the property taken from Mr. Garneau's purse. Nearly all the property lost has been recovered, most of it having been found on the man when apprehended at the railway-station. He was brought before the Manchester police-magistrates on Monday, and the case being clearly made out against him, he was committed for trial at the sessions.

NYPHON,

FORMERLY Bishop of Bonzeo, and the present Metropolitan of Wallachia, like every Bishop destined to occupy the highest functions of the Wallachian ecclesiastical hierarchy, belongs to the order of monks. He is one of those Prelates for whose spiritual and temporal emancipation the Emperor Nicholas has engaged in what he wishes the world to consider a holy crusade against Turkey; and whom he is, all the while, robbing of their wealth, and despoiling of their prerogatives. As priest, the Wallachian Metropolitan owes allegiance only to the supreme authority of the Patriarch of Constantinople; but the Autocrat of St. Petersburg would compel him to pay fealty to him. As monk, Nyphon claims the right of participating in the administration of the immense wealth of the Wallachian convents; but the Consul-General of the Emperor has handed this power over to the Greek Igoumenes. Lastly, as Metropolitan, the Prelate (whose Portrait we here present to our readers) is entitled, in pursuance of the most venerable traditions of the Roumaine country, to preside over the Council of the Boyards; but the Czar, in remembrance of the rôle played by the Wallachian clergy during the events of 1848, has even excluded him from the Council instituted for the government of the country, during the absence of the Hospodar (now a refugee in Vienna), and the occupation of the Russians. And it is for the religious Protectorate of this same Greek Church that the Czar of all the Russias has disturbed the peace of the world. It would be difficult to define the word religion as it is understood by the Russians, and in the name of which so much blood has already been shed.

The revenue of the Metropolitan of Wallachia is 5000 ducats. He lives in Bucharest, in the palace of the metropolis. The Illustration represents him in the magnificent robes of his order. His mitre is after the model of the ancient crown of the Emperors of the East. In his public capacity, he bears the title of Metropolitan of Hongro-Wallachia.

Nyphon is one of the principal characters connected with the great Eastern Question which has aroused Europe from East to West. If any of our readers should desire more detailed information with respect to this interesting subject, we refer them to an excellent treatise published in Paris in 1848, by M. Billecocq (formerly Political Agent and Consul-General of France in the Principalities of the Danube), and called the "Moldo-Wallachian Album."

As an appropriate pendant to this Sketch of Nyphon, we print the following document, which contains historical proof that the monstrous pretensions of Russia date from the remotest times. Russian diplomacy already, in the year 1528, 8th of February, succeeded, at a Council held at Rome, in concluding a secret alliance between the Pope Paul III., the German Emperor Charles V., and his brother, the Archduke Ferdinand, King of Hungary and Bohemia, in order to effect the expulsion of the Turks from all the European states and isles.

This document was presented by the Czar Johann to the Roman King Ferdinand, and to the Estates of Germany, assembled at the Diet of Regensburg in the year 1557 (February). The original is to be found in the collection of the posthumous works of the famous traveller, politician, and warrior, Sigmund of Herbertstein, in his family archives, at Gratz:—

To the Most Serene and Victorious Prince Charles, the Roman Emperor, at all times Possessor of Germany, Spain, both Sicilies, Jerusalem, Hungary, Dalmatia, King and Duke of Austria, the eternal friend of Russia Count of Hapsburg, &c., our dearest Friend and most beloved Brother:

We, Johann, by the Grace of God Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russians, Possessor and Ruler of all Europe and Asia, present to our aforementioned brother our best wishes for his life, health, dominion, &c. Having taken the government, eight years ago, after the death of our most beloved father, Basilus, considering the strong friendship and affection which has always united us with our brother, Charles, Roman Emperor, and Ruler of the brave German nation; and considering our innate hatred against the Turk, the hereditary foe of Christendom; and considering our most violent desire for the protection of the Christian Church, we think it our most holy duty to resist the bloodthirsty Turk with money and power. We, therefore, believe that a General Council of the German nation, for the aforesaid purpose, ought to be held; for which purpose, we have sent the bearer of this, our theologian and scholar of the Holy Writ. May he inform you as to our religion, our language, and our customs.

We beg, you, further, to send us some men who may make us acquainted with the rites of the Latin Church; and some others who understand the law, and are experienced in police matters, in order to undertake the task of establishing order and police-courts in the provinces we have taken from the barbarians, and among the ignorant peasantry; and especially, also, some masons, in order to erect, on the boundaries of our dominion, strong castles and fortresses, against the invasions of the Tartars, Scythians, and other barbarians. We beg you to comply with our wishes, for the purpose of conserving our old alliance and friendship.

We beg you to answer, in a letter written by your own hand, to the aforesaid requests, whereof you send us an authenticated copy. We do not act for sake of the Christian religion, but only in order to disguise our purposes, and in order to win the support of the German nation; we aim at fortifying ourselves, to facilitate the work of suppression. At the same time, we must act so to as gain us the favour of Christianity. We, therefore, unite our religions in such a way that we order in both our Churches the "Symbolum Nicaenum" ("Credo in unum Deum," &c.) to be sung.

Our forefathers already have worked successfully in favour of the

Christian name. They have subjugated many barbarian tribes, as Scythians, Benimen, Baskirs, Ceramisses, Thula, Korelia, and Bensusa, worshippers of the sun and the moon, and they have forced them into the Christian faith. We have also subjugated the Tartars, the accursed Mahomedan sects; and we not only have taken from them their lands, but vanquished, too, their army of 30,000 men. We have driven them into Asia, across the water which scholars call Tanais; and have won their territories, not only for ourselves, but for Christ the Saviour, &c.

In consequence of our efforts in the propagation of the Gospel, we have in our Imperial Castle at Moscow sixteen churches, and in our Imperial Neugarden more than days are in the year. This is confirmed by the learned writer Sebastian Munsterus in his "Kosmography." We ought to endeavour to make improvements, in order to rule more securely our extensive dominions, comprising more than 600,000 German miles; and in order to increase in this way our power, whereto we herewith, by our Ambassadors, most earnestly request the aid of the German nation. If we had not hitherto undertaken this work, the only reason was that there were so many obstacles, chiefly consisting in our countries being so very far from each other. We, therefore, have now despatched our Ambassadors, after the fashion of other Potentates, in order to negotiate in our name, in holy as well as in profane matters. Because the city of Augsburg, in Sonabia (Schwaben), is considered the principal city in all Germany, where so often diets are held, money is made, and soldiers are armed, and therefore it is most convenient for successfully arranging different matters: in consequence thereof our Ambassadors shall establish posts from there through Livonia, to the frontier of our Empire. Messrs. Fugger, at Augsburg, the richest private persons at Augsburg, have been advised by us to pay you 570,000 crowns (Thaler) for the sake of carrying on the holy war against the Turk, which sum we will advance to the German Empire, on the following conditions, viz:—

That the money be deposited in the hands of Messrs. Fugger for twenty years, and five per cent be annually paid into the hands of our Ambassador, until a common expedition of the German nation against the Turk be undertaken, and until a great and steadfast war against the Turk be carried on. Should no war ensue, during the aforesaid time, the money shall be repaid to us. In the case of war, when the money shall be spent for war purposes—by which, no doubt, with the help of God, many lands and people will be won—it must be repaid, with interest. If a great and powerful expedition be undertaken against the Turk by the German nation and by the Crowns of Hungary and Bohemia, and if your Great Might-

a direct communication with that continent by way of India. The Duke of Newcastle observed that the deputation was, no doubt, aware that it was his (the noble Duke's) intention to offer the conduct of the expedition to Captain Stokes. The Royal Geographical Society had applied for a further sum of £1000, and if the matter had been left in their hands, he believed the Treasury would not have been unwilling to comply with their request. But it had occurred to him, regard being had to the importance of the service, and to difficulties to be encountered, that the more satisfactory course would be that the Government should themselves take up the matter, so that they might be responsible for the outlay, and carry out the expedition on a scale of which the nation might be proud, and which at the same time would develop the great resources of the country in a manner more efficient and complete than if it had been undertaken by individual exertion. Under these circumstances, he had communicated with the Royal Geographical Society, who had approved of the alteration in the scheme. He had also told them that, before taking any further steps, he would call upon Captain Stokes to lay before him a detailed plan, showing the course that he intended to take, the point he proposed to start from, the assistance which he would require, the probable time it would take, and an estimate of the expense. He was of opinion that in many instances it was more advisable to leave matters of this sort in the hands of private individuals; but in this instance he believed it would be better to allow the Government to take it up; and, if in any way the Government could take counsel with these gentlemen, they would be glad of their assistance and advice. The great object of the deputation was the internal exploration of the country. The survey of the coast must be made subservient to that. How far it might be desirable to ask the merchants to assist with money or advice and co-operation was a matter for future consideration, and also how far it might be desirable to call upon the Colonial Governments to contribute a portion of the expense, or only to give their co-operation. Mr. Lindsay, in thanking the noble Duke for the attention he had paid to the subject, assured him, that if the Government should require funds to carry on the exploration, in a more extended and effective manner, they might rely upon receiving pecuniary assistance from the merchants of London. The deputation then thanked the noble Duke, and withdrew.

DIPLOMATIC ARRANGEMENT WITH ROME.—Declarations have been exchanged between the Governments of Great Britain and of the Roman States for securing national treatment to the vessels and commerce of each country in the ports of the other. The arrangement is to be in force for seven years; and, further, until after twelve months' notice on one or other side.

ness or your well-beloved son will take the command personally, we beg you to inform us of your so doing, in order that we may send 30,000 Moscovite cavalry or "Kingeferd" to your aid into Hungary, or any other country, where the scene of the war will be; which force we will maintain five years at our own expense. These armed men ("Reissigen"), however, shall be commanded by our own officers; and whatever be conquered of countries, castles, towns, boroughs, by the aforesaid 30,000 horses ("Pferd"), from that we do not require a spot of earth ("Kein Fuss-breit"), but only the repayment of our war expenses. If the war should be lost, we are ready to resign all claims.

That we bear so much grace, love, favour, and affection towards the German nation and its chieftains, for the following reasons:—Because we are of the same origin and extraction with the Germans; because we possess so many lands in Scythia and Sostien, and have conquered them, where, in former ages, the first of the German chieftains had their seat and habitations, and where still the mountains, woods, wells, and castles bear German names. Such are the reasons inducing us to conclude with the Germans eternal peace and friendship. Besides all this, I send you twenty-five sons of princes and lords, as hostages, in order to prove you that I will use the above-named force against no Christian power, but only for the destruction of the hereditary foe of Christianity.*

Past things cannot be undone; and "it is better to improve things late, than that they be not done at all." Therefore, when our empire and the Germans, with right earnestness and good faith, hold together (in which matters there shall be no want in us and our subjects, over whom we are perfectly master, and exercise an absolute power), we have full confidence that, in a short time, the common hereditary foe and tyrannical bloodhound, the Turk, will be humiliated, debilitated, and utterly subdued ("niedriggestossen"). If we have, then, set as strong a foot in Europe as the Turk in the beginning in Europe, then we shall visit the Turk at Constantinople ("Wir werden ihn in Constantinopel heim suchen"), and shall embody again into Christianity the empire taken from it, with all countries formerly belonging to it (restitution of the Byzantine Empire).

Here the essential part of the document concludes. There follow still some formalities, purporting that the Czar will faithfully adhere to what he has promised; after which there is enumerated a series of presents sent to the German Emperor, consisting of Imperial birds ("Kaiserlichen Voegeln"), foreign white eagles, some Circassian horses, and some tame saibles ("Zimmer-Zoebeln"), &c. It is remarkable that still the request is expressed that the Emperor's answer might not be styled in those quaint and elegant terms usually employed in the diplomatical language of Germany, because, it is said in the Czar's letter, German scholars were still rare in Russia. The document concludes with the usual formulas of greeting.

* Here something seems to be wanting in the document.

EXPLORATION OF AUSTRALIA.—A deputation, composed of Mr. Moffatt, M.P., Mr. Gregson, M.P., Mr. T. A. Mitchell, M.P., Mr. T. A. Travers, and others, waited upon the Duke of Newcastle, at the Colonial-office, on Saturday last, to urge upon Government the necessity of carrying out the proposed exploration of the interior of Australia, so as to make

NYPHON, METROPOLITAN OF WALLACHIA.



HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

Their Lordships met at five o'clock.

In reply to Lord Torrington, Lord CANNING stated that a great improvement had been effected, both in a sanitary and economic point of view, since the introduction of Mr. Leslie's patent in connection with the lighting by gas of the Post-office establishment. There were now 500 burners fewer than had been used a few years ago; and the saving of cost was no less than £50 a week.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE complained both of the lighting and ventilation of the Houses of Parliament, and expressed a hope that before Easter the recommendations of the Committee, that had sat upon the subject upwards of two years ago, would be adopted.

In reply to Lord Lyndhurst, the LORD CHANCELLOR entered into a long statement respecting a revision of the statutes. The subject was one of the greatest importance. A commission had been appointed to inquire into the question, but it had not as yet concluded its labours. When the inquiry had terminated, he would be fully prepared to deal with the subject.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The House met at four o'clock.

In reply to Mr. Hume, Lord J. RUSSELL said that a remonstrance had been addressed to the Spanish Government as to the conduct of the Governor of Cuba in connection with the admission of slaves into that island. The result was, that the Governor had been superseded, and promises were given that a change of conduct would take place.

In reply to Mr. Milnes, Lord J. RUSSELL said that he had no objection to produce the correspondence that had taken place between the British Government and that of the Queen of Spain on the subject of a Protestant burial-ground, the complaint upon the subject having been ameliorated.

In reply to Lord C. Hamilton, Mr. GLADSTONE said that no new duties had been imposed upon the police in Ireland in connection with the collection of the Excise revenue there.

Mr. T. CHAMBERS moved that a select committee be appointed to investigate the claims of Yuille, Shortridge, and Co., against the Portuguese Government, for compensation for losses incurred through breach of treaty. The hon. member stated that the firm alluded to had suffered grievous losses, amounting in the whole to about £100,000, in their commercial transactions from the year 1833, through the faithless conduct of the Portuguese Government; and that, as British subjects, they had a claim to protection at the hands of the House.

Mr. HORSFALL seconded the motion.

Mr. D. SEYMOUR supported the proposition.

Lord J. RUSSELL opposed the motion, and warned the House against acting upon an *ex parte* statement. He was willing to produce all the papers connected with the case, in order that a correct judgment might be formed in respect to it.

Mr. G. BUTT thought the case was one which would best be met by a Select Committee.

After some further discussion, the House divided, when the numbers were—For the motion, 126; against it, 74: majority against the Government, 52.

Mr. CAYLEY moved for a Select Committee to consider the duties of the member leading the Government in this House, and the expediency of attaching office and salary thereto. The hon. member contended that the duties of the office of Leader of the House, now discharged so ably by Lord J. Russell, were exceedingly onerous, and deserved remuneration.

Mr. STIRLING seconded the motion.

Sir C. WOOD said he could not accede to the motion, which, if carried, would attach a salary of a Secretary of State to an undefined and indistinct office—an office which really did not exist. The position of Leader of the House was at present an exceptional case, and one which should not be taken as a guide for the future. Besides, he thought that salary ought only to be attached to offices in which there were public duties to fulfil, and to which there was responsibility attached.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS opposed the motion. He thought that the time was very ill chosen for increasing the public expenditure by proposing to attach a salary to an office that was not defined by the Constitution.

Mr. WALPOLE, however, indisposed to make any reflections upon the arrangements made by the present Government in respect to the appointment of Lord J. Russell as their Leader in that House, thought that it would be most improper to attach salary to an officer of the Government who could not be held responsible by the country. There were two great inconveniences attending the creation of an office like that held by the noble Lord. In the first place, the Queen might select a person to hold the position of the noble Lord without such person being compelled to go back to his constituents. In the second place, the person holding such a position might be the chief adviser of the Sovereign, and yet the country would be deprived of knowing, in the ordinary and constitutional manner, who, in fact, this responsible officer of the Crown was. The position of the noble Lord was a most anomalous one—that of being Leader of the Government without holding any particular office. For these reasons he thought it would be a most dangerous precedent for the House to agree to such a motion as was now under consideration.

Lord J. RUSSELL concurred in the reasons advanced against the motion. He, however, saw no constitutional danger in the position which he then occupied; for he held himself to be responsible for any advice which he might give to the Sovereign or the Cabinet, as much as if he held any other public office. At the same time, he thought, generally speaking, the organ of the Government should hold a particular office.

The motion was then withdrawn.

The Assessed Taxes Act Amendment Bill was read a third time, and passed.

Sir J. GRAHAM laid the Navy Estimates on the table of the House; which Estimates, Lord J. RUSSELL intimated, would be taken on Friday week.—Adjourned.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, on Friday week, Mr. CARDWELL stated that it was the intention of Government to bring in a bill, in the course of the present session, for the prevention of railway accidents.—Lord PALMERSTON stated, in reply to a question by Lord Stanley, that it was his intention to bring in a bill for the better regulation of burial societies, and to correct the abuses connected with their management.—Mr. CARDWELL moved for leave to introduce two bills, of which notice was given on the opening night of the session. The first of these he described as intended to shake off the last fetters from navigation, and the second as designed to consolidate the laws affecting merchant shipping. In regard to the latter measure, he did not propose to speak at any length. It was a bill of no ordinary magnitude, but it either affected interests already disposed of, or questions which had been much ventilated. He begged to invite debate upon it by all who were interested in its subject. It referred to the registry and measurement of ships, and, as concerned the latter point, proposed to substitute a new and more scientific system. It would provide for the comfort of those on board, would consolidate the machinery which gave control to the Board of Trade, and would demand similar certificates of qualification from those engaged in the home trade as were required from those going abroad. It would also attempt to arrange a system for promoting the saving of lives from shipwreck. It would refer to the light dues (which, under recent legislation, had been diminished one-fourth), would provide for taking nautical observations, and for nautical education. It would, lastly, deal with passing tolls. He incidentally mentioned that the system of registration of seamen, having become unpopular, had been suspended; and he also showed that the apprehensions which had been felt at the admission of foreign seamen had been unfounded. Out of the 190,000 sailors who were last year engaged in our trade, only 2600 or 2600 were foreigners. Mr. Cardwell then adverted to the first-mentioned bill, which proposed to set navigation entirely free. He had carefully examined all the objections to the admission of foreign shipping, and found that the preponderance of testimony, as well as of argument, was in favour of such a course. Of the absolute necessity for additional shipping in every part of the kingdom there could, he said, be no doubt; and he entered briefly into evidence to show this, and the enormous benefit which would result from the liberation of foreign vessels. He reminded the committee that in this age of advance and improvement it was especially our duty to abolish all artificial barriers; and he urged that if, after a long peace, war was about to break upon us, we should have the satisfaction of remembering that by a wise and enlightened course of policy we had strengthened the foundations of our own prosperity, and done much to promote amity with other nations. The bills were received favourably by nearly all parties in the House. Even Mr. HENLEY expressed his approval of them in a general way, and declared his willingness to lend any assistance towards perfecting the proposed measures. After a short conversation, leave was given to bring in the two bills.

CHESS.

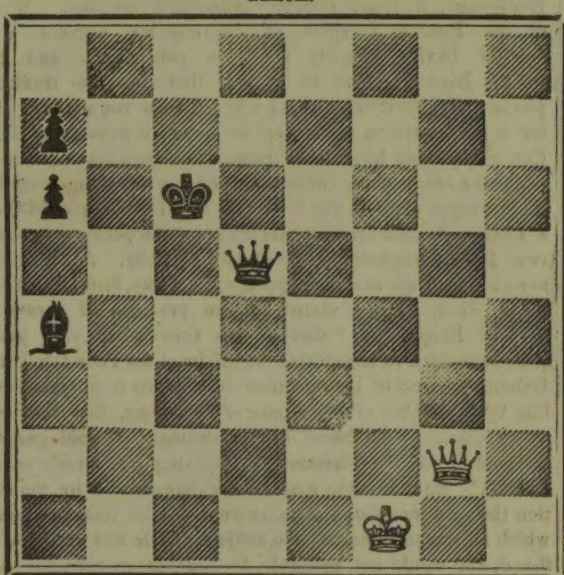
TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. S.—Have the goodness to write the question lightly. Your note is quite undecipherable. MEDHUR.—In a part of our impression last week the Chess column was printed before it had been revised. The following corrections are necessary in the games. At White's 5th move in the first, instead of B. P. to Q. Kt 2nd, read B. P. to Q. Kt 1st. In the second game, for Black's 5th move, instead of Q. to K. B. 7th read Q. to K. B. 2nd. THE DRAGON.—We shall endeavour to find room for the new regulations of the St. George's Chess Club next week. VIATOR.—The Chess Player's Chronicle, we see, gives every month on its wrapper a list of above fifty British Chess-club, all alphabetically arranged, with the time and place of meeting of each. Every chess player about to make a journey should have this list in his pocket, and he will be enabled to enjoy his game, and make some agreeable acquaintances in almost every chief town in the kingdom. V. G.—Black ought to win easily. A CHESS PLAYER OF MODERATE SKILL has forgotten to give his address. R. P., of Haverford.—There is no mistake whatever; for if Black takes the Kt, White takes Pawn, discovering check with his Queen. Black must then capture the Queen, and White is stalemated. The game is therefore drawn, either by stalemate, or perpetual check. A SUBSCRIBER FROM THE FIRST.—Your Problem is somewhat neat, but much too easy. SIGMA.—Full of promise, although not sufficiently difficult for our column. A SUBSCRIBER of Portsmouth.—It is lawful to Castle under the circumstances mentioned. R. D. M.—We shall be glad to have the games advertised to when you have leisure to write them out. These will not be forgotten. RICARDO, F. M.—It is under consideration. J. B. of Bridport.—We are obliged by the trouble so kindly volunteered. MILTONIA.—The error in "Stella's" problem shall be rectified, if possible. AN OLD MEMBER.—1. Situated as the St. George's Chess-club now is, and affording such comfort and advantages as it now does, there can be no reasonable doubt of its prosperity. 2. The Subscription is Three Guineas yearly for Town, and One Guinea for Country Members. Candidates for admission should apply either to the Secretary, or the Managing Committee, at 23, St. James's-street. SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 519, by Hollandie, S. W. K., G. W. R., R. D. M., Inverill, J. S., A. L. M., Chas., H. L., R. L. H. N., are correct. SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 520, by S. S., O. N. R., Derevon, R. D. M., Almaric, F. R. of B., J. P., are correct. All others are wrong.

PROBLEM No. 521.

By Mr. H. E. KIDSON.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and make a drawn game.

CHESS IN BELGIUM.

Smart little affair between Mr. STAUNTON and Mr. DE RIVES.

(King's Knight's Opening.)

WHITE (Mr. S.)	BLACK (Mr. De R.)	WHITE (Mr. S.)	BLACK (Mr. De R.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	14. Q Kt to Q B 4th	Kt to Q 4th
2. K Kt to K B 3rd	Q Kt to K B 3rd	15. Q to Q 2nd	Ktts Q B P (a)
3. P to Q B 3rd	K Kt to K B 3rd	16. Q Kt takes K B	Ktts Q Kt P (b)
4. P to Q 4th	K Kt takes K P	17. Q Kt takes Q R	Kt takes K Kt
5. P takes K P	P to Q 4th	18. Q R to Q sq	Kt to K B 6th
6. K B to Q 3rd	Q B to K B 4th		(ch) (c)
7. Castles	K B to Q B 4th	19. P takes Kt	Q takes Kt
8. P to Q Kt 4th	K B to Q Kt 3rd	20. P takes P	B takes P
9. P to Q Kt 5th	Q Kt to K 2nd	21. P to K B 4th	Q to Q B sq
10. K Kt to Q 4th	Q B to K Kt 3rd	22. Q to Q 7th	Q to Q Kt sq
11. K B takes Kt	P takes B	23. P to K 6th	P takes P
12. Q B to Q R 3rd	Castles	24. B to Q Kt 2nd	
13. Q Kt to Q 2nd	K R to K sq		And wins.

(a) Hazardous, though well-conceived.

(b) Taking the Kt with his Q would have cost him the exchange, we believe.

(c) He could do no better, had as this is.

Another Lively Skirmish between the same Antagonists.

(Giucoco Piano.)

BLACK (Mr. de R.)	WHITE (Mr. S.)	BLACK (Mr. de R.)	WHITE (Mr. S.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	19. Kt takes K B	P takes Kt
2. Kt to K B 3rd	Kt to K B 3rd	20. Kt to K Kt 5th	R to K B 3rd
3. B to Q B 4th	B to Q B 4th	21. K R to K 3rd	Kt to Q 2nd (c)
4. P to Q B 3rd	Kt to K B 3rd	22. Q R to K sq	Kt to Q 4th
5. P to Q 4th	P takes P	23. R to K 6th	R takes R
6. P takes P	B to Q Kt 3rd (a)	24. Kt takes R	R takes Q R P
7. P to K 6th	P to Q 4th	25. B to K Kt 7th	P to Q Kt 4th
8. P takes Kt	P takes B	26. Kt to K B 8th (ch)	Kt to K B 2nd
9. P takes K Kt P	R to K Kt sq	27. Kt takes K R P	Kt to K B 6th
10. P to Q 5th	Kt to K 2nd	28. P to K B 3rd	Kt to Q 6th
11. Kt to Q B 3rd	R takes P	29. R to Q Kt sq	P to Q Kt 5th
12. Castles	Q B to K Kt 5th	30. P to K R 4th	Kt to K B 5th
	(b)	31. Kt to K B 6th	P to Q B 6th
13. Q to Q R 4th (ch)	Q to Q 2nd	32. R to K R 5th	P to Q 7th
14. Q takes Q (ch)	B takes Q	33. R to Q B sq	Kt to K 7th (ch)
15. K R to K sq (c)	P to K B 4th	34. K to K R 2nd	Kt takes R
16. P to Q 6th (d)	P takes P	35. P to K R 6th	Kt to K 7th
17. Q Kt to Q 5th	Q B to his 3rd	36. P to K R 7th	P Queens
18. B to K R 6th	R to K B 2nd	37. P Queens	Q to K B 5th (ch)

And Black surrenders.

(a) Better to play Bishop to Q Kt 5th (ch). By retreating to Q Kt 3rd, White subjected himself to some needless trouble.

(b) Bishop to K R 6th would have led to many interesting variations.

(c) An embarrassing move for White.

(d) Well played.

(e) Safer, perhaps, than taking the Bishop. In the latter case the game would probably have proceeded thus—

21. Q R to K sq	R takes B
22. K takes Kt (if Kt to K B 7th, White may answer with Kt to K Kt sq, &c.)	K R to K Kt 3rd
23. P to K R 4th	P to K R 3rd
24. Q R to K 6th	(He might also take the K P with his Bishop.)

CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 561.—By FOUZDAR, of Madras.

White: K at his 3rd, B at K 6th, Kt at K 4th; P at K Kt 5th, Q 4th, Q R 3rd and 4th.

Black: K at his 3rd; P at K 2nd, Q 3rd, and Q B 3rd.

White to play, and mate in five moves.

No. 562.—By E. F. H.

White: K at K Kt 4th, Q at K 7th, B at Q Kt 4th, Kts at K Kt 5th and Q 4th; P at K 3rd and Q R 5th.

Black: K at K 4th, Q at Q 3rd, R at Q R 3rd and 8th, B at Q R 6th, Kts at K 7th and Q 7th; P at K Kt 3rd, K 2nd, Q 4th, and Q R 5th.

White to play, and mate in five moves.

THE NEW WEST-END CHESS SALONS.—This noble suite of rooms, which have been splendidly decorated by the celebrated Wang, and which form a portion of the establishment now known as "The Wellington," in St. James's-street, were re-opened to the public on Monday last; and, certainly, in the magnificence of their appointments, and the general excellence of all the arrangements, these salons completely eclipse every thing of the kind hitherto seen in this country.

ORNITHOLOGY.—The Boston Guardian, of Feb. 1, states that an adult male specimen of the Solan Goose (*Pelecanus (Ardeus) solanus*) was captured a short time since, near Boston. A splendid specimen of the common Bittern (*Ardea (Stellaria)*), was shot a few days since, by Mr. Charles Brooker, in his crew-yard, at Lenox; and a remarkably fine Bittern was captured about a month since, at Burlington, in a high net. Before the capture of the fens, the Bittern used to be common in the neighbourhood of Boston; but it has rarely been seen of late years.

THE TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.—SOIREE AT THE WHITTINGTON CLUB.

The soiree given by the Association for Promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge, to celebrate the abolition of the Advertisement-duty, and to honour to Mr. Milner Gibson, took place at the Whittington Club on Wednesday evening.

Sir John Shelley, who occupied the chair, spoke strongly in favour of the abolition of the penny stamp on newspapers, in order that the working men might have newspapers as well as the middle and higher classes.

Mr. Samuel Lucas proposed as a sentiment, "The right of free speech, a primary right, and the means of obtaining all others." In doing so he expressed a wish to see education brought home to every man's door. "He would have it laid on like water." He congratulated them on having obtained the repeal of the Advertisement-duty, and exhorted them to persevere till the last rag of those restrictive laws, which prevented education being brought fairly home to every man's door, was abolished.

Mr. Gibson, in proposing "Mr. T. M. Gibson, and his supporters in the House of Commons," said that no member of Parliament had acted more honestly, more energetically, or more successfully in this matter than Mr. Gibson; and, therefore, he was entitled to their special and grateful thanks.

Mr. Gibson, after expressing his sense of the compliment paid to him, defended the course which he and his friends had pursued with reference to the repeal of the Advertisement-duty. They had conducted that question without reference to party. They had not scrupled to accept the aid of Mr. Disraeli and other intelligent Conservatives, whose sympathies with literature inclined them to the Liberal side on that question. For having done so, they had been charged with joining in an unprincipled coalition; but he could not see why such a complaint should be made, so long as neither party abandoned principle. A further complaint was, that they embarrassed Government by bringing forward such measures; but, if the measure were good, no good Government would be embarrassed by its introduction. He then went on, at great length, to advocate the abolition of the Newspaper-stamp, which acted as a heavy tax on the circulation of news among the poorer classes. The pretence on which this most oppressive tax on knowledge was maintained was, that it prevented scandalous attacks on private character. There never was a greater delusion. At present, a man may publish seditious, blasphemous, or personal attacks in a penny periodical, without the Stamp-office recognising such a paper. But the instant he inserts news in any weekly or fortnightly publication, he is immediately pulled up by Mr. Timms for having infringed the law.

Mr. Cobden did not think there would be any use in moving for the repeal of the Paper-duty this year, owing to the war expenditure; and therefore they should unite for the abolition of the Newspaper-stamp. He did not seek the abolition of the stamp with the idea that he was going to promote a system which would supersede any of our able and well-established newspapers. If the peasant took the *Times* and supplement home to his cottage, he could not find what he wanted. Besides, he did not care for advertisements of estates to be sold, nor for information as to the price of Funds, for he had no prospect of having any money to invest; the letters of "our own correspondent" from Vienna or St. Petersburg had no interest for him, because he had never heard of such places. What such a man wanted to see was the news of the place and neighbourhood in which he had been born, lived, and was destined to die; and, if a system of freedom were allowed to prevail in the newspaper press, there would, within five years, be a weekly paper containing such news published in every market town, and sold at the price of about a penny. It was the knowledge that a paper contained the news of his immediate neighbourhood—the conviction of any of his neighbours for poaching, and so on—which would first stimulate a man to read it, or to get it read by his child when it came from school (Applause). It was because they could not give such news as this—that the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge were unable to obtain for their *Penny Magazine* a circulation in the rural districts. What we all read daily was, not extracts from geographical works, travels, or histories, but the broadsheet of news, and our reason for reading it daily was that the events of one day were connected with another—we got upon a sort of electric chain of sympathy, and read on to see whether the chain would lead us. But for this stimulus, how many of us would read at all? (Applause.) The opponents of the stamp wanted to supply a want which never would be supplied so long as this restriction was maintained, because it kept the price of papers at a rate which pressed heavily upon the great mass of the population in the agricultural districts. And let it be remembered that you could never permanently keep the intelligence of towns above that of the agricultural districts, because it was from the latter that the population of the former was constantly recruited. If they were to bring the working class in the country up to a state deserving the name of civilisation, they must let them have cheap newspapers, in order that they might be stimulated to read.

The vacated chair having been taken by Mr. Cobden, Mr. John Watts, of Manchester, proposed a vote of thanks to Sir John V. Shelley, which was seconded, and carried by acclamation. After it had been briefly acknowledged by Sir John V. Shelley, the proceedings terminated.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

REPRESENTATION OF CAMBRIDGE.—A meeting was held at the Bull Inn, Cambridge, on Saturday last, at which the Hon. W. F. Campbell attended, and explained his political opinions to the electors at great length. He commenced by adverting to the question of the admission of Jews to Parliament, and to the anomalies with which the subject was environed. He then referred to the Turkish question, and gave his opinion that if England did not interfere with energy the Ottoman Empire would be destroyed. With regard to Parliamentary Reform, he felt hesitation in surrendering a blind and implicit confidence to the present Government in reference to the forthcoming bill. Mr. Cockerell put some questions to Mr. Campbell, and opposed his political views. A motion was then made that Mr. Campbell should be recommended to prosecute his canvass, but to his proposition an amendment of a contrary character was proposed and carried; upon which the meeting was adjourned.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY ELECTION.—A convocation was held on Tuesday at twelve o'clock for the purpose of electing a Burgess to represent the University in Parliament, in the place of Sir Robert Harry Inglis, Bart. The Registrar read the usual statutes against bribery and corruption, and the pains and penalties which a violation of them would subject the parties to. The Warden of New College addressed the house in Latin, and concluded by nominating Sir William Heathcote, Bart., of All Souls College, D.C.L., as a fit and proper person to represent this University in Parliament. No other candidate being proposed, the Vice-Chancellor declared Sir W. Heathcote to be duly elected. The writ was then signed and sealed, after which the Vice-Chancellor dissolved the Convocation. The proceedings—the whole of which, with the exception of reading the writ and bribery clauses, were conducted in Latin—occupied about half an hour. Sir W. Heathcote was not present, as it is contrary to etiquette for a candidate to be on the spot or to take part in the proceedings.

LUDLOW ELECTION.—The election of a member to represent this borough in the place of Mr. Clive took place on Tuesday, when the Hon. Colonel Percy Egerton Herbert, brother of the Earl of Powis, was elected without opposition. Mr. Herbert, in addressing the electors, said, he hoped we should never again have a "little war," for he himself had seen its folly at the Cape of Good Hope, but he hoped that Parkhurst would employ an overwhelming force in the war which appeared inevitable. He thought there was an omission in the Queen's Speech, by there being no reference to the important subject of Education, and hoped it would not be allowed to stand still. As to Parliamentary Reform, he was not acquainted with the measure the Government intended to introduce, but trusted it would be an honest one; that there would be no carrying out constituencies to serve party purposes; and that the rights and privileges of cities and towns which had returned members to Parliament for centuries would not be wantonly set aside.

THE HULL CORRUPTION.—The Commissioners appointed to inquire into the existence of corrupt practices at the Hull elections, report that systematic corruption has always prevailed at Hull. Before the Reform Act there was a general practice of paying the freemen, then the only voters, head-money, at the rate of £4 4s. for a plumper, and two guineas for a split vote. Since that act, the mode and amount of payment have changed, but the system of corruption has not been discontinued. It has prevailed at every election. At the election of 1831 each party paid between 600 and 700 voters; and in 1847 about 1200 were bribed; in 1852, of the 3983 who voted, nearly 1400 were bribed. The constituency consists of 1800 freemen, and 3000 occupiers; and the Commissioners state that 1100 of the freemen were bribed once at least, and the greater number of them often, in the course of these three elections.

A NARROW ESCAPE.—The ship *Wild Rover*, which arrived in Liverpool from New Orleans, with a cargo of cotton, &c., on Tuesday last, was struck by lightning on the 26th ult. The electric fluid descended the foremast, and after the thunder-storm had subsided it was ascertained that the cargo in the forehold had ignited. Captain Hamilton instantly ordered the hatches to be kept closed, and the fore-pump rigged. The crew obeyed the orders with alacrity—a continuous and abundant stream of water was poured upon the burning mass; and when it was considered that the fire was extinguished the hatches were taken off. It was then found that several bales were still smouldering; they were, however, quickly hoisted up and thrown overboard (thirty-five in number). But for the presence of mind of Captain Hamilton and the excellent discipline of the crew, the vessel must have been destroyed.

A DECREASE OF PAUPERS IN IRELAND.—A return to the House of Commons shows that, on the 1st Jan., 1853, the number of paupers relieved in Ireland was 141,822; and, the 1st January last, 106,746. The decrease was 41,076 in the year. The Poor-law valuation on the 29th September last, was £11,306,413.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, February 12.—Septuagesima Sunday.
MONDAY, 13.—Massacre of Glencoe, 1691. Duc de Berri assassinated, 1821.
TUESDAY, 14.—Valentine's Day. Captain Cook killed, 1779.
WEDNESDAY, 15.—National Debt commenced, 1500.
THURSDAY, 16.—
FRIDAY, 17.—Battle of St. Albans, 1461. Michael Angelo died, 1564.
SATURDAY, 18.—Martin Luther died, 1546.

HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 18.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
1 23	2 15	2 35	2 50	3 10	3 25	3 45
4 0	4 15	4 20	4 30	4 40	4 50	5 0
5 5	5 25	5 40	5 50	6 0	6 10	6 20

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W.—The golden bee was the emblem of the French Kings of the Merovingian race, and was found depicted in great numbers at the opening of the tombs of those monarchs at St. Denis. It is supposed to have been assumed by Napoleon from its antiquity as the symbol of a French dynasty in contradistinction to the fleur-de-lis, the comparatively modern one of the Capetian race.
BAM.—Apply for the names to the Secretary, H. M. Vane, Esq., Eaton-place.
SORS.—The appointment of Gentleman-at-Arms is obtained, generally, by purchase, on the recommendation of the Captain. The price is, we believe, about £1000.
LOUIS DE MONTFORT.—There is no existing Peer of the name of Thompson, or Thomson. The late Lord Wenlock adopted the surname of Thompson; but his son and successor, the present Lord, adheres to the family name of Lawley. In the extinct Peerage occur—Thompson, Lord Haversham; and Thomson, Lord Sydenham.
DOUBTFUL.—Unus Deus et unus rex.
HEREWARD THE SAXON is desirous of ascertaining if there was any peculiar badge or heraldic augmentation to the arms of the Lords Marchers. The only Lord Marcher now remaining, our Correspondent informs us, is the Lord of the barony of Kemes, in the county of Pembroke.
A. B. C.—A Captain in the East India Company's Service can scarcely be said to hold her Majesty's commission, or to hold from his appointment as of right the title of Esquire.
A. Z.—The full pedigree, arms, &c., of Sir Charles Price, Bart., the banker, may be found, elaborately drawn out, in the last edition of Mr. Burke's "Peerage and Baronetage."

* In our sketch of the life of Admiral Adolphus Slade (Muhaver Pacha), which appeared in our paper of last week, we find, in giving the names of his brothers, that we omitted that of his brother "Ernest Augustus Slade, Esq." This gentleman, a godson of the late King of Hanover, late of the 40th and 54th Foot, served with the latter regiment during the first Burmah campaign, and has received the "Ava medal."

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1854.

THE country, and we doubt not the Ministry and the Parliament, are fully alive to the necessity of conducting the impending war with all possible energy and decision. This great nation avoided rushing into hostilities as long as there was a chance of preserving the peace of Europe by fair and honourable negotiation; but, as soon as it was found that the Emperor of Russia would listen to no reason except that which was thundered in his ears from the cannon's mouth, the mind of the people was made up. Active preparations of every kind have been made within the last few weeks: the Baltic Fleet will speedily be fully manned and ready for sea; and a third fleet—almost, if not entirely, equal to those in the Euxine and the Baltic—will, ere many weeks, be stationed at the Nore. As in all previous struggles, the right arm of British prowess will be her navy. The services of the army, according to all present appearances, are not likely to be called into such immediate or extensive requisition; for while Great Britain will bear upon the sea the brunt of the pending collision, France, which is a military rather than a naval power, will do her part by land towards re-establishing the peace which the Russian Emperor has so unjustifiably broken. Should the last feeble hope transmitted from Vienna—that he will yet yield to reason, or, what is more probable, to fear—not be destined to confirmation, our gallant seamen will know what they have to do; and they will do it. It will be their duty to sweep every Russian vessel off the ocean; and, if need be, to destroy or take possession of Cronstadt, Odessa, and Sebastopol. They will enter upon their task with all the characteristic vigour of their profession and race. All who may have previously doubted the fact, will speedily discover that forty years of peace have not weakened the national stamina, or rendered us unable to justify our proud boast of being rulers of the Ocean. It is currently stated—and, we believe, on good authority—that Admiral Sir Charles Napier is to have the command of the Baltic Fleet. We sincerely hope that the report is well founded. Such an appointment would, in the popular estimation, presage victory; and would be hailed with satisfaction in every part of the country.

THE House of Commons has never shown itself regardless of the individual honour of its members, or of its high privileges as a Legislative Assembly. There is, no doubt, a conviction in some places that the House is venal and corrupt, and it is difficult to persuade the wretched voters of many notorious rotten boroughs, that the gentlemen who offer them bribes, and expend large sums of money in contested elections, make these large pecuniary sacrifices without expectations of an adequate return. They know themselves to be knaves for being bought, and they naturally think that their buyers are as bad as themselves. But this is an unjust estimate of the House of Commons. If Lord John Russell's new Reform Bill—which is to be brought forward, notwithstanding the Russian War—shall provide the means for the prevention of bribery, or for its effectual punishment when committed, we are confident that the result will be hailed with unfeigned satisfaction by the members of that Assembly. The House of Commons is, at the present time, more than ever it was, the hope and example of Europe; and the higher its character for personal purity, as well as for deliberative wisdom, the greater will be its influence in the affairs of the world, and the stronger the barrier that it will everywhere offer against the encroachments of Barbarism and Despotism. But the corrupt practices

at elections for small boroughs are far more disgraceful to the character of the people than to that of the House of Commons; for, while Venality and Corruption strut openly about in the glare of noon, and are so little ashamed as to think themselves part and parcel of the British Constitution, in scores of places returning each a couple of members to Parliament, they dare not show their faces in the House itself. The new Reform Bill, if it achieve nothing else than the purification of such places, will confer a great public advantage; and Lord John Russell acts wisely in not allowing himself to be deterred from its introduction by the prospects, if not the certainties, of a war.

But the individual purity of members is a matter of a different kind, which it is the bounden duty of the House to maintain—at all times and at all hazards. There are ultra-purists who seem to imagine that Members of Parliament should be cold abstractions, uninfluenced by personal motives, and having no private interests. The ties of family, friendship, and political companionship, cannot be altogether ignored. They are as strong as human nature, and will exert and vindicate themselves, however much purists may think it necessary to condemn them.

But imputations such as those which have been cast upon the Irish members, collectively and individually, and which were brought under the especial notice of the House by Mr. Butt, on Tuesday evening, are of the most serious importance if true;—and, if false, require immediate disproof. When one of the leading journals of the country accuses a member of having openly sold his patronage; and imputes to the Irish members in general that they are traffickers in places and appointments, and will sell their votes to any Ministry for a consideration in money or money's worth, the House of Commons would be guilty of treason to its own majesty if it did not make the charges the subject of the most searching investigation. The charges made in the first place by a Dublin, and reiterated by a London, journal, rest at present upon the personal testimony of two Irish gentlemen, named Gray and Kelly. At a public dinner at Tuam, about a fortnight ago, Dr. Gray, formerly a candidate for an Irish county, stated, in the presence of several members of Parliament, "that at the time when paid guardians were appointed to administer the affairs of the Poor-law Unions in Ireland, a friend of his consulted him as to a proposal made to him by a member of the House of Commons, that that member would obtain for his friend the appointment of paid guardian to the poor, upon consideration of receiving one year's salary for himself." Such was the first charge, aggravated by the insinuation that he was thus making the subject of sale was about to be abolished, and would not, probably, be suffered to continue in existence for more than five months. It is difficult to conceive a more disgraceful transaction, supposing the facts to be correctly stated. The second charge, made by a Mr. Kelly, was to the effect that "he knew, of his own knowledge, of a member of the House of Commons receiving five hundred pounds from a gentleman to procure for him the appointment of stipendiary magistrate, with the promise of a second five hundred pounds when the office was actually obtained." Mr. Kelly added, "that, on a particular occasion, when the Minister was hard-pressed on the eve of a division, the appointment was conferred; but that the purchaser of the office turned round upon the member who had got him the place, and refused to pay him the second five hundred pounds." This charge, supposing it to be true, is quite as disgraceful to all parties concerned as the first.

Into the general allegations against Irish members it is needless to enter. We believe them to be false, ungenerous, and utterly unwarranted. But the charges of Dr. Gray and Mr. Kelly are specific and tangible; and the House, having had cognizance of them, could not do otherwise than order an immediate and full inquiry. A Committee of Investigation was unanimously appointed; and ere long the country will be in a position to form an opinion upon their truth or falsehood. For ourselves, we expect they will turn out to be mere moonshine—post-prandial gossip—attenuated and re-attenuated, by passing through the large and dirty current of *gobemoucherie*, until their original shape and identity have been altogether dissipated. It is no imputation upon the Irish character to say that the after-dinner speeches of Irish patriots are somewhat less discreet than after-dinner speeches in other countries. But we will not do Irish or any other gentlemen the injustice of believing in such sweeping charges without the most rigid and unexceptionable proof. It is fortunate that the charges are so distinct. If not proven, the result to the individuals who have preferred them will teach them how perilous it is to trifle with the character of honourable men, and the privileges of the British Legislature.

IMPORTANT DESPATCHES FOR CONSTANTINOPLE.—The *Caradoc* left Marseilles on the morning of the 4th. She carries out, it is said, despatches which point out in the clearest manner the line of conduct to be pursued by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and General Baraguay d'Hilliers.

ENROLMENT OF THE IRISH MILITIA.—Lord Palmerston's intimation as to the enrolment of the Irish militia promises to be an extremely popular measure with all parties in Ireland. The *Freeman's Journal*, commending the Ministerial project, observes that during the Peninsular War one half of the line was composed of militia volunteers; and that young gentlemen who could coax half a company to join the regimental depôts were compensated with commissions. "Between recruiting for the line and balloting for the militia, we are likely to have exciting times."

ENORMOUS DIAMOND.—One of the largest diamonds known was deposited yesterday at the Bank of England by a London house, to whom it was consigned from Rio Janeiro. Its weight is 254 carats, and its estimated value according to the scale £280,000. It is said to be of the finest water, and without a flaw, and was found by a negro slave, who received his freedom as a reward.—*Standard*.

THE "ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS" IN JAPAN.—It has lately come to our knowledge that the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS is regularly received at Jeddo, through Nagasaki, for the library of the Emperor of Japan. This is an interesting fact, and one that deserves particular mention as an event, though perhaps it may be considered a small one, in the history of civilisation. Here is the despot of a country which has always disdained to have any intercourse whatever with other nations opening his sleepy eyes to gaze out upon the wide world, and awakening to a sense of his relationship to the rest of mankind. Perhaps, neither the Emperor himself, nor any man in his dominions, understands the English language; therefore an ordinary newspaper would be a dead letter to him. But the language of pictures—those beautiful hieroglyphics of modern times—that universal tongue which is intelligible even to savages and babes; this he can understand. And thus, through the medium of our pages, is the panorama of the different countries of the earth made to pass before the eyes of this hermit-King, and helps to make him a wiser man, and, consequently, a better Sovereign.

THE COURT.

The distinguished company enjoying the Royal hospitality last week left Windsor Castle on Saturday, with the single exception of the Duchess of Sutherland, who remained on a visit to her Majesty until Monday.

On Sunday the Queen and the Prince Consort, with the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice, and the Duchess of Kent, attended divine service in the private chapel of the Castle; the Duchess of Kent received the sacrament of the Holy Communion. The Duchess of Sutherland was also present at the service.
On Monday Mr. J. G. Middleton had the honour of submitting for her Majesty's inspection the portrait he has recently finished of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French. In the afternoon the Queen and Prince drove out in an open carriage attended by the Equerries in Waiting. The Earl of Aberdeen, who had arrived on the previous night from London, left the Castle to-day.

On Tuesday the Queen and Prince walked in the Home-park. Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert afterwards drove out in an open pony phaeton. The Equerries in Waiting attended on horseback.

On Wednesday her Majesty, attended by the Marchioness of Ely, drove to the Cumberland Lodge School. Major-General Buckley was in attendance on horseback. The Prince Consort rode out on horseback, attended by Colonel the Hon. A. Gordon. The Earl and Countess of Ellesmere and Lady Alice Egerton arrived to-day on a visit.

On Thursday the Queen and the Prince Consort walked in the Home Park. His Excellency the Prussian Minister and Madame Bunsen, Viscount and Viscountess Mandeville, the Hon. C. A. Murray, and the Rev. Professor Sedgwick (of Cambridge) arrived at the Castle to-day on a visit to her Majesty.

The Court will arrive at Buckingham Palace, on Tuesday next, for the season.

Mr. John E. Jones has had several sittings lately for his bust of his Royal Highness Prince Albert.

POLITICAL ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Earl of Aberdeen had a dinner-party on Saturday, at Argyll House. The Marquis of Huntly, the Earl of Chichester, the Earl of Zetland, the Earl Bruce, the Earl of Clare, the Earl of Essex, the Earl of Wicklow, the Earl of Fingall, the Earl of Beesborough, and the Earl of Elgin were among the guests.

The Earl of Derby gave a Parliamentary dinner, on Saturday evening, at his mansion in St. James's-square, to a large party of noblemen and gentlemen, members of the House of Commons.

The Earl and Countess Granville gave a grand dinner, on Saturday evening, at their mansion in Bruton-street, to a distinguished circle, including, among others, the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, the Duke of Newcastle, the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earl and Countess Grey, Viscount and Viscountess Canning, Lord and Lady Ashburton, &c.

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston gave a grand dinner, on Saturday evening last, at their mansion in Carlton Gardens, to a distinguished party, comprising the French Ambassador and several other members of the *corps diplomatique*. The Viscountess subsequently had an evening party, which was attended by his Excellency Namik Pacha, and most of the nobility at present in town. Her Ladyship's first grand assembly for the season will take place this (Saturday) evening.

Lord John Russell had a Parliamentary dinner-party, on Saturday, at his residence in Chesham-place.

His Excellency Baron Rehausen, the respected representative of the King of Sweden at this Court, has, we are sorry to learn, been suffering severely from an attack of illness, which for some days assumed a serious character. His Excellency is now happily approaching convalescence.

The gallant Marquis of Anglesea is progressing satisfactorily towards recovery from his recent indisposition.

We are sorry to learn that the Marquis of Thomond has had a severe fall, and dislocated his shoulder, at Bath. The dislocation has been reduced, and his Lordship is now doing well.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.—*Hon. Canonry*: The Rev. W. Proctor has been appointed to an Honorary Canonry in Durham Cathedral. *Rectories*: The Rev. H. J. Cummins to the united parishes of St. Alban, Wood-street, and St. Olave, Silver-street; the Rev. H. M. Fletcher to North Stoke, Somerset; the Rev. W. Halton to Branstone, Leicestershire; the Rev. W. Holland to Brasted; the Rev. G. H. S. Johnson to Weyhill, Hants; the Rev. J. B. Smith to Dorington, Gloucester; the Rev. W. Vallance to Southchurch, Essex. *Vicarage*: The Rev. R. Walker to Bumstead Helion, Essex. *Incumbencies*: The Rev. J. B. Harrison to Walmer; the Rev. H. Owen to Llanbaban; the Rev. T. Reynolds to Trinity Church, Woolwich. *Perpetual Curacies*: The Rev. H. D. Blanchard to Kilnwick-by-Watton, Yorkshire; the Rev. G. Garrett to Accrington, Lancashire; the Rev. C. Marshall to Harpurhey, near Manchester; the Rev. D. Slyman to Withnell, near Chorley, Lancashire; the Rev. D. D. Stewart to Maidstone, Kent.

ON Sunday last the Archbishop of Canterbury preached a most impressive sermon to a crowded congregation, at the parish church of St. Mary, Newington, in aid of the Cancer Hospital, Cannon-row, Parliament-street, and West Brompton. His Grace referred to the great sufferings from that awful disease for which the institution had been specially established to alleviate, and the good effect which was likely to result from the greater extension of its sphere of usefulness; concluding by a powerful and pathetic appeal for an increase of funds.

TESTIMONIALS.—The following clergymen have recently received tokens of affection and esteem:—The Rev. J. J. Butler, by the congregation of the Sailors' Home, Liverpool; the Rev. H. P. T. Woodington, by the inhabitants of Whitstable and Seasalter, on his removal; the Rev. W. Crowther, who is leaving the curacy of St. James's, Accrington, and about to enter upon that of Rawtenstall, by the members of the congregation; and the Rev. J. Davidson, by the parishioners of Whitby, on his removal.

NEW CHURCH IN MARYLEBONE.—A new church is about being commenced between Orchard-street and Duke-street, Manchester-square. An ecclesiastical district, formed out of the rectory division of the parish of St. Marylebone, will be assigned to the new church, of which the Rev. C. Molyneux, M.A., formerly minister of Trinity Church, Woolwich, will be the first incumbent.

ELVERTON CHURCH, DERBY.—The Earl of Harrington has just had executed a very handsomely painted window, for erection in Elverton Church, in memory of his mother, the late Countess of Harrington. The window represents the Saviour blessing little children, and has been painted in a very masterly style.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. JOHN WINTER, OF HUSTWHAITE, YORKSHIRE.—The inhabitants and parishioners of Hustwaite have just presented to the Rev. John Winter a splendid tea and coffee service (manufactured by Messrs. Benson, of Cornhill, London), on the completion of the forty-seventh anniversary of his curacy of that parish, in commemoration of their respect and esteem for his labours in the parish during that long period. The service was exhibited at Hustwaite for several days, and much admired.

WHITTINGTON CLUB.—On Monday evening, the half-yearly meeting of the members was held at the Club-house, Arundel-street, Strand, when the report was of an unusually favourable character, and Mr. Mechi was elected President for the ensuing year.

THE GRAND DUKE AGAIN!—The contemptible Government of Tuscany is beginning to lose what little sense it had in its alarm at the prospect of the European crisis. Its last act has been to expel Signor Piraino, a Sicilian gentleman of property, and of moderate opinions, who had taken refuge in Florence after the disaster of 1849, and resided there undisturbed until now. On inquiring the grounds for his summary expulsion, he was informed that he paid too frequent visits to Lord Minto, who is spending the winter at Florence with his family, but living in the most retired manner. It is well known that all Lord Minto's movements have been watched by the Tuscan police; but it was hardly imagined that drinking tea with him would have been converted into a crime against the state.

ANOTHER FIRE, AND LOSS OF LIFE.—Considerable excitement was caused in Clement's Inn, on Thursday morning, about three o'clock, in consequence of violent screams proceeding from the premises of Mr. Harrison. It seems that the younger branches of the family had gone to a party, and that Mrs. Harrison went to fetch them home, leaving her daughter, Sophia Harrison, asleep, and the candle burning on the table. On her return home the room was on fire, and the girl in the midst of the flames. She was instantly taken to King's College Hospital, but she died shortly after her admission.

IPSWICH MAGISTERIAL REFORM.—A petition to the House of Commons, praying the Legislature to appoint a stipendiary magistrate for the town of Ipswich, is in course of signature.

11, 1854.]



THE DEPARTURE OF THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR FROM CHESHAM HOUSE.—(SEE PAGE 119.)

THE WAR.

CHANGE IN THE TURKISH CABINET.

VIENNA, Thursday Morning.

We learn by telegraphic advices from Constantinople, that the Turkish Cabinet has been dismissed, and that one in favour of compromise with Russia has been formed. The Seraskier and Kapudan Pacha have left the Cabinet. Riza and Achmed Pacha have succeeded them.

AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA NEUTRAL.

VIENNA, Wednesday, Four p.m.

Count Orloff left at nine o'clock this morning, taking with him the positive assurance that Austria and Prussia would remain neutral. Although the Russian Envoy offered to give up the pretension to treat with Turkey alone, his new propositions were rejected. The English Ambassador was very positive, in consequence of express instructions from home on the subject.

RE-ENTRY OF THE FLEETS INTO THE BLACK SEA.

The fleets, having taken in fresh provisions, were to re-enter the Black Sea on the 28th. Three French and three English steam-frigates sailed on the 25th for Varna. On the 26th another Turkish convoy, intended to carry men and ammunition to Batoum, was to sail under the escort of a part of the Turkish fleet and the French and English frigates.

A letter from Varna says:—"Before the entry of the fleets into the Black Sea, the Russian cruisers were constantly in observation upon our coast. They have since entirely disappeared, and the Turks have complete possession of the Euxine."

THE WAR IN WALLACHIA.

Omer Pacha is entirely restored to health. A Wallachian General, two or three American officers, and several French and Swedish officers, have arrived at head-quarters, to take service in the Ottoman army.

Considerable reinforcements are on march from Sophia for Kalafat, where there is already assembled an army of 25,000 men, provided with a numerous and excellent train of artillery.

According to General Schilders's report to the Russian Embassy, the Russian army of occupation is in a pitiable condition, the original corps being 35,000 men weaker than when it crossed the Pruth in July last.

Military operations in Asia are suspended. General Baraguay d'Hilliers was to have set out on the 26th, on his tour of military inspection.

AUSTRALIA.

The *Ballarat* has arrived from Port Phillip, having sailed on the 11th November. She brings 92,000 ounces of gold (worth £368,000), seventy passengers, and a cargo of wool and tallow. The *Great Britain* steamer was to leave Melbourne on the 3rd December; and may, therefore, be daily looked for.

The intelligence from the different digging localities continues good. The number of persons absolutely in the employ of the local Government of Victoria, and paid as such, amounts to no fewer than 5096. The total probable expenditure for the present year is stated at £3,265,000, and the population 250,000; the cost of government is, therefore, at the rate of £13 per head of the population.

THE TURKISH ARTILLERY.—At Oltenitz it was not the mere brave, resolute Turk of the old stamp, but the Minié rifle and the Prussian school of artillery that contributed to gain the victory. At the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus is a regiment of 3000 artillerymen, carefully taught their profession by the best European (mostly Prussian) officers. When the first alarm of war came, most of them were dispersed over the border fortresses of Europe and Asia, and immediately set to work improving the local artillerymen. Rustchuk received some, who have been drilling the local artillery militia all the autumn; and at this moment there are a great many butchers, carters, and even cooks, tailors, and other unwarlike-sounding craftsmen, who can work a battery with all the Prussian improvements on their old jogtrot native practice. An alarm service with trumpet has also been organised; so that, on the appearance of the enemy, every man can go to his place with perfect regularity. In the old fire service all was helter skelter, rushing, and confusion; now the districts have been divided, and the population classified, with a fire-brigade for each, while the cordon service has been arranged so as to allow none of the old partial pressure and partial exemption, and the acquaintance of service from post to post is now in writing, not by word of mouth.

A duel was fought in the Bois de Bologne on Monday, between the Prince Roger de Beaufremont and the Count de Ludres. The Count de Ludres received a severe wound in the chest, but his life is not considered in danger.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

From all sides we hear of the most active preparations going forward to render the navy as efficient as possible. At Portsmouth, which has always been the head-quarters of the navy, the preparations become every day of a more warlike character.

On Monday an order was received for drafting one-half of the Coast Guard on board the various line-of-battle ships fitting at Portsmouth and other ports. This step will add to the naval service about 3000 of the most efficient and steadiest men it could possibly receive—all of them well trained in gunnery, and admirably adapted to form the nucleus of crews for screw line-of-battle ships. With them the newly-raised men can be brought into a state of complete efficiency; and a powerful Baltic fleet may be organised without the necessity of resorting to impressment.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

A letter from Portsmouth says:—"Rumour is busy with her hundred tongues as to who shall be the Commander-in-Chief of the Baltic fleet. The name most generally received is that of Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Napier, and that he will hoist his flag in the *Duke of Wellington*, supported by Rear-Admirals Corry and Chads. Certain it is that fifteen sail of the line, with a corresponding number of frigates and corvettes, will be in the Baltic by the 6th of March, or, at all events, ready to enter. We also hear that ten sail of the line (French) will co-operate with the British fleet. Rear-Admiral Chads has hoisted his flag (blue) at the mizen of the *Princess Royal*, 91, screw, Captain Lord Clarence Paget."

Of the fleet thus mentioned, we believe that the advanced fleet will be the smaller screw-ships—*Edinburgh*, 60; *Ajax*, 60; *Blenheim*, 60; *Hogue*, 60; *Euryalus*, 51; *Imperieuse*, 51; *Arrogant*, 47, &c. This division, with the exception of the *Euryalus*, is almost fully manned. The heavier screw-ships will have their complements made up by the coast-guard force—*Duke of Wellington*, 130; *Royal George*, 121; *St. Jean d'Acre*, 101; *Princess Royal*, 91; *James Watt*, 91; *Caspar*, 91; *Nile*, 91; *Cressy*, 81. These ships will then be also fully manned. The sailing-fleet will then be in reserve to pick up and complete crews, and, as soon as they are manned to proceed to join the blockading fleet.

In addition to these splendid ships, it is stated that the *Mecanec*, 80, and the *Wellesley*, 72, sailing-ships, at Chatham, are to be immediately brought forward for commission. Both were built at Bombay of the best teak. The *Wellesley* was launched in 1815 and is of 1746 tons. These ships are well adapted for the navigation of the Baltic, as they have a comparatively moderate draught of water. The *Majestic*, 80, screw steam-ship, also at Chatham, is likewise ordered to be made ready for commission immediately. She is to be fitted with engines of 400-horse power.

TROOPS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE.—We give the following from the *Dublin Mail* of Monday last (not, perhaps, the best authority on military matters) that the following regiments are to embark "under orders for Constantinople" between the 1st and 30th of March next:—4th (King's Own), 7th (Royal Fusiliers), 9th, 14th, 17th, 21st (Royal North British Fusiliers), 27th (Innskillings), 28th, 36th, 38th, 39th, 42nd (Royal Highlanders), 60th (Queen's Own), 62nd, 63rd, 79th (Cameron Highlanders), 82nd, 88th (Connaught Rangers), 89th, 90th (Perthshire Light Infantry), 93rd (Sutherland Highlanders), and 95th.

HOME SERVICE.—The following regiments will remain in the United Kingdom to do home duty: The 34th, 20th, 97th, 46th, 33rd, 77th, 91st, 12th, 19th, 23rd, and the Rifle Brigade.

RECRUITING.—Parties were sent out from the second battalion of the Rifle Brigade, the 35th Regiment, and the 79th Highlanders, stationed at Portsmouth, for recruiting, on Saturday, orders having reached them to fill up to 1000 strong forthwith.

MILITIA CAMP.—It is intended, early in the ensuing month, that a camp, consisting of 30,000 English militia, shall be formed either at Chobham, or such other place as the General in Command of the Army shall deem fit.

TROOP SHIPS.—Several of Cunard's steamers are taken up by Government to carry troops to Constantinople. 6000 men go from England; others will be taken on from the different stations. About 10,000 will soon be collected to form the first expedition. There is no doubt a brigade of guards will form part of the expedition. The 46th Regiment, that was under orders for Australia (leaving the old soldiers at home whose time would have been up in a few years), is now to hold itself in readiness for foreign service, taking all their best men, and leaving the young soldiers and recruits at home.—*Morning Herald*.—[This statement has been denied; and re-asserted in another form.]

THE ENROLLED NAVAL PENSIONERS.—PORTSMOUTH, WEDNESDAY EVENING.—The following order has been promulgated:—"All Greenwich pensioners under sixty years of age, no matter how employed or engaged, are directed to attend at the Pension-office between this day and Saturday next, for the purpose of receiving a printed form to attend on Tuesday, the 14th inst., for inspection by officers from the Admiralty, to ascertain their fitness for service. If this notice is not attended to, they will be subject to loss of pension.—Feb. 8, 1854."

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—The following extract from a private letter of the promoter of the American Arctic Searching Expeditions, one of which, under Dr. Kane, is now afloat, will be read at this moment with interest:—"New York, Jan. 20, 1854.—I agree with you, that resignation is not required of the relatives and friends of the missing Arctic Expedition for a result not yet ascertained. Sir John Franklin, I suppose, went through Wellington Channel; he then would make for Behring Strait. But in doing so he would probably be compelled to go on as far west as the meridian of that strait, and perhaps farther, before he found an opportunity to get south. He then would make a bold push; in this he has got entangled by the ice, and cannot extricate himself. Until that barrier of ice is well explored, I shall not entertain anything like despair. Where the missing ones are supposed to be, no one has visited. No judge or jury could say from the evidence now before us that they no longer exist."

DESTRUCTION OF AN ENGLISH VESSEL AT SINOPÉ.—With regard to the destruction of an English vessel at Sinopé by the Russian fleet, the following letter has been posted on the Manchester Exchange, addressed to Messrs. Nash and Nash, of Liverpool, from the Foreign-office:—"Gentlemen,—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., upon the subject of the destruction of the English vessel *Howard*, at Sinopé, I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon to acquaint you that he has been in communication with the owners of that vessel; but he is not yet in possession of all the facts that must have occurred in the case. The attention of the Board of Admiralty has been called to the necessity of taking such measures as circumstances may admit of for the protection of British vessels in the Black Sea.—I am, &c., H. U. ADDINGTON."

NEW STEAMER FOR AUSTRALIA.—The *Emu*, the first new screw steam-ship in connection with the Australasian and Pacific Royal Mail Company, arrived in Southampton dock on Tuesday. She is a fine vessel, of 1600 tons burthen and 350-horse power. She is intended to ply—in connection with the ships of the Royal Mail Company, which leave that port for the West Indies on the 2nd and 17th of each month—between Panama, New Zealand, and Australia; and will leave on the 2nd March for the purpose of taking up her station at the first-named place. It is computed that by this arrangement Australia will be brought within fifty days communication of England, or fourteen days less time than the quickest passage on record between the two countries is stated to have been made. Five other vessels are fitting out, and will shortly arrive.

ANOTHER SHOCKING SHIPWRECK ON BARRA ISLANDS.—The iron-bound coast of the island of Barra, off the western part of Scotland, has again been the scene of a heart-rending shipwreck. The Liverpool ship the *W. H. Davis*, Captain Carling, master, while on her voyage to New Orleans, in attempting, on the night of the 27th of last month, to weather Barra Head during an awful storm, went ashore on the rocks of Vatersay, within a short distance of the spot where the *Anne Jane*, emigrant ship, was lost, with some 300 lives, a few months since. The moment the ill-fated ship touched the rocks, the master and crew took to the rigging, as their only chance of escape, expecting, as the wreck heeled over, they would be able to gain the rocks. However, in a few minutes afterwards, the ship was dashed to pieces, and the whole of the poor fellows fell amidst the crumbling wreck and perished. Only one escaped to disclose their fate. The steward, it appears, took refuge on the bowsprit; and, as the vessel went to pieces, he sprang forward and succeeded in reaching the rocks in safety, although very much bruised. He suffered intensely during the night, and was almost insensible when assistance arrived the next morning. Several bodies of the crew were discovered among the rocks by the fishermen, who conveyed them to Vatersay for interment.

THE CHINESE EMPEROR'S REASON FOR TAKING A WIFE.—"Absorbed day and night by the vast occupation Heaven has entrusted to me," says the Emperor, in a public document, "I have need of an assistant actuated by the same spirit as myself." Nin-lou-Kou, the lady he proposes to raise to this high position, is a lady of honourable extraction, who is highly esteemed in the palace, where her exemplary character is shown by the exactness with which she performs her domestic duties—not even shrinking from washing either fine or coarse linen with her own hands. She is, therefore, to be in the Imperial costume, and to be at the head of the ladies of the "six pavilions."

WHAT OUR EPIDEMICS COST US.—During the sitting of the Government commission, held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, to inquire into the causes of the fearful ravages of cholera in that town, Mr. J. B. Hume, the Chief Commissioner, from evidence that had been laid before him, made a calculation that the epidemic has cost the town £3800 for medicine and burials alone, and would cost it £50 a week for eight years to support the widows and destitute—nearly £30,000. In addition to the sum, he said some thousands of pounds had been collected and distributed by the Vicar. There are also 200 benefit societies in the town, and taking the average loss at £500 each, made £10,000 more.

TYPE-SETTING BY MACHINERY.—A Swedish gentleman in Lund has constructed a new compositors' machine, which is said to succeed perfectly. He has left for England, where he will patent his invention. The name of the mechanician is Wiberg. In Denmark, also, the machine of Sorensen (which was exhibited in the Crystal Palace) has been perfected, and will now be used in the establishment of the Fædrelandet.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS,
TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, FEB. 9.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer. Highest Reading.	Thermometer. Lowest Reading.	Mean Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Ratio in Inches.
Feb. 3	30.358	45.3	27.3	35.3	— 2.5	84	C.A.L.M.	0.09
" 4	30.004	45.4	27.6	35.7	— 2.2	84	N.E. & S.E.	0.00
" 5	29.914	52.7	30.0	41.1	+ 3.1	99	S.S.W.	0.13
" 6	30.023	55.5	40.4	49.4	+ 11.3	83	S.W.	0.00
" 7	30.025	54.2	47.0	49.8	+ 11.6	82	S.W. & W.	0.00
" 8	30.118	45.7	37.8	40.7	+ 2.5	71	W.	0.00
" 9	30.077	45.0	35.4	39.1	+ 0.8	88	W. & N.	0.13

Note.—The sign — denotes below the average, and the sign + above the average. The numbers in the seventh column are calculated on the supposition that the saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The reading of the barometer has varied during the week from 30.37 inches on the morning of the 3rd, to 29.92 inches on the afternoon of the 5th. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the level of the sea, was 30.058 inches.

The mean daily temperatures have varied during the week from 2.2° below, to 11.6° above, their average values. The mean daily temperature of the 7th was 49.8°, and is the highest mean daily temperature recorded on that day—the register extending as far back as 1814.

The mean temperature of the week was 41.6°, being 3.4° above the average of the corresponding week during 38 years.

The range of temperature during the week was 28.9°, being the difference between the lowest reading on the 3rd, and the highest on the 6th.

The mean daily range of temperature during the week was 14°. The greatest was 22.7° on the 5th, and the least 7.2° on the 7th.

Rain fell during the week to the depth of three-tenths of an inch nearly.

The weather on the 3rd and 4th was fine. The sky was mostly overcast from the 5th to the afternoon of the 9th. The wind was blowing strongly on the 6th and 7th. On the 9th a great darkness prevailed at different times, equally, with heavy pressures of wind. Rain, with snow flakes, fell at 4 P.M. The afternoon was fine.

Lewisham, Feb. 10, 1854. JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The number of births registered within the metropolitan districts within the week ending February 4, was 1655: of these, 857 were boys, and 798 were girls, exceeding the average of the same week in the nine preceding years by 103 boys and 83 girls. The deaths registered within the week numbered 1204; of these, 619 were males, and 585 females. In the ten corresponding weeks of the ten preceding years, the average number was 1091, which, corrected for increase of population, becomes 1200. The actual result of last week agrees very closely with the calculated amount.

CABINET COUNCIL.—A Cabinet Council was held on Wednesday afternoon, at the Foreign-office, Downing street. It was attended by the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord John Russell, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Lord Chancellor, Earl Granville, Viscount Palmerston, the Earl of Clarendon, the Duke of Newcastle, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir James Graham, Sir Charles Wood, the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, and Sir William Molesworth. The Council sat three hours.

SOCIETY FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE LAW.—A meeting of the members of this society took place at their rooms in Regent-street on Monday evening; Mr. Vansittart Neale in the chair. The subject brought under consideration was the proposed report by Mr. Alfred Hill, on Ecclesiastical Courts. Mr. Hill pointed out the evils of the present system of testamentary jurisdiction, explained the principles suggested in his report, and, after combating certain propositions brought forward by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in their report, recently published, expressed a hope that his report might be received by the society. On the motion that the report be received, Mr. Pritchard urged the adjournment of the discussion until the society was made acquainted with the proposition to be brought forward by the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords. The discussion took place, however, and it was ultimately resolved by the meeting that the jurisdiction in all testamentary matters ought to be transferred from the Ecclesiastical Courts to the Superior Courts at Westminster; that for this purpose, the Courts of Chancery and the Courts of Common Law should be respectively clothed with all the powers, as well of Courts of Common Law as of Equity, and that it should be at the option of the plaintiff in which court he should sue.

THE SUBMARINE AND EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—The usual half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors in this undertaking was held at the London Tavern, on Wednesday. Lord de Mauley, the chairman, read the report, which stated that the telegraph between Dover and Ostend has now been in uninterrupted communication since the 20th of June last, and since that period the agreement between the Company and the Submarine Telegraph Company has taken effect. The Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament was conveyed to Paris and Berlin before her Majesty left the Palace of Westminster, and experiments have been made which prove that no town in Europe where a line of telegraph exists is beyond the reach of immediate communication by the submarine wires from London. The number of messages transmitted during the month of January, 1854, after the opening of the French line, was 1068; in January, 1853, 2018; and in January, 1854, the number had increased to 3120. This increase has been maintained in spite of active opposition, and the comparative stagnation of all commercial affairs from the unsettled aspect of the political horizon. The present position of the company's finances enables the directors to recommend a dividend at the rate of eight per cent per annum for the last six months, on the capital of £75,000; and a resolution to that effect was carried. A resolution, that £800 be presented to the directors for their past services, and that £600 be the annual remuneration for them in future, having been proposed, an amendment was moved, that the sum of £200 from the reserve fund be voted to the directors for their past services, which was carried unanimously.

THE PRESTON STRIKE.—The weekly meeting of delegates from the London Trade Societies, in aid of the Preston operatives, was held on Thursday night at the Bell Inn, Old Bailey. Mr. R. Hooper took the chair, and stated that a telegraphic despatch had been received by the committee that afternoon, stating that the attempt of the associated masters to open their mills had proved a complete failure, so much so that two firms, Messrs. Almond and Rodgett, had given in to the terms demanded by the operatives, and had that day opened their mills accordingly. The secretary announced the income for the week to be £205 7s. 9d., and the expenditure, £103 15s. 6d.; leaving a balance of £101 1s. 3d. in hand. £100 had been sent to Preston during the week. Reports were given, stating that the Thames ship *Caulker* had given £30 towards the support of the lock-outs, and several other grants were announced. The sum paid in during the evening was £90. A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.—On Wednesday a View of Sebastopol was added to this popular Exhibition. The new picture is cleverly painted by Messrs. Grieve and Telbin, and, at the present moment, possesses great interest beyond its picturesque attraction whilst its production proves that the proprietors of the Gallery are unceasingly alive to the requirements of the intelligent classes.

"LUMLEY v. GYE."—This cause is specially fixed to be tried in the County of the Queen's Bench, on Monday, the 20th instant, and is expected to occupy more than one day. The action, it will be remembered, is brought by Mr. Lumley, of her Majesty's Theatre, against Mr. Gye, of the Italian Opera, Covent-garden, to recover compensation for the non-appearance of Midde Wagner. The damages are laid at £30,000. For the plaintiff, Sir F. Thesiger, Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Mr. Hoggins, Mr. Cowling, and Mr. Haddeston have been retained; and for the defendant, the Attorney-General, Mr. Willes, and Mr. Cressy will appear. A special jury has already been nominated by Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, for the plaintiff, and will be reduced in a few days.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

DERBY RACES.—WEDNESDAY.

Match: 20 sovs. each.—Sars Rosello, 1. Queen of Diamonds, 2. Union Hunt Stakes.—Escape, 1. Newman Noggs, 2. Midland Steeple Chase.—Trout, 1. Spring, 2. Selling Steeple Chase.—Blue Stockings, 1. Jesuit, 2. Handicap Hurdle Race.—Teddlesley, 1. John Bright, 2. Selling Handicap Hurdle Race.—John Bright, 1.

LATEST BETTING AT TATTERSALL'S ON THURSDAY EVENING.

LINCOLN STEEPLE-CHASE AND HURDLE-RACE.

4 to 1 on the Field (off) on each.

LIVERPOOL STEEPLE-CHASE.

7 to 4 agst Miss Mowbray (off) | 11 to 1 agst Bourton (8 and off) | 100 to 6 agst Peter (1)

20 to 1 agst Oscar (off)

CHSTER CUP.

15 to 1 agst Fitz of Surrey (off) | 50 to 1 agst Newminster (1) | 30 to 1 agst Peggy (1000 to 30)

50 to 1 agst Umbriel

DERBY.

9 to 2 agst Autocrat (1) | 50 to 1 agst Br to Chanticleer | 2000 to 25 agst Alcmio (1)

25 to 1 — Acrobatic (1) | 100 to 1 — Honeyuckle

THE DERBY BERESFORD CASE.

The important case of the Queen v. Beresford, which has excited so much attention, was disposed of in the Queen's Bench, on Thursday, before Lord Campbell, in a more summary manner than was anticipated. The court was crowded by members of the bar, members of the House of Commons, and others. Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., Mr. Slade, Q.C., and Mr. Turner appeared on behalf of the persons preferring the indictment; and Sir Frederick Thesiger, Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Mr. Whiteley, Q.C., Mr. Bodkin, and Mr. Clerke appeared for the defendant. The defendant, who came into Court on crutches and appeared very ill, was accompanied by Mr. Forbes Mackenzie and other political friends.

Mr. Turner stated that this was an indictment against the defendant, for conspiring with others to corrupt the electors of Derby at the election in July, 1852. A writ was directed from the Speaker of the House of Commons to the Mayor of Derby for the election of two burgesses to represent the borough in Parliament. The first count in the indictment charged the defendant with wickedly conspiring to procure a corrupt return of members for the borough. In consequence of those practices Mr. Horsfall was returned, but was afterwards unseated by a committee of the House of Commons, and Mr. Bass was seated in conjunction with Mr. Lawrence Heyworth. Other counts went on to charge the other parties with having been concerned in the conspiracy, but as regarded them no case was intended to be preferred.

Mr. E. James, Q.C., after stating how the indictment had originated, said that, from the exposures which had taken place, the persons preferring the indictment believed that enough had been done to prevent the recurrence of such practices in future; and he was, therefore, instructed to offer no evidence in support of the indictment. It would, therefore, be their duty to return a verdict of not guilty.

Lord Campbell said that, as no evidence had been brought forward, it was the duty of the jury to return a verdict of not guilty, which was done accordingly.

Sir F. Thesiger could not allow this matter to pass without, on the part of Mr. Beresford, denying—in the most distinct and unequivocal language—that he had anything, directly or indirectly, to do with the course which the prosecutors had adopted; and that nothing had been done by him—by Mr. Beresford, or on his behalf—to prevent the fullest inquiry into, and consideration of, the whole of the case; for he was most anxious that the fullest investigation should take place. Mr. Beresford was there, coming from a bed of sickness, labouring under the consequences of a serious accident; but he came to the Court anxious to meet the charge, for which there was not the slightest foundation. It was not until on the previous night that he had received a communication that it was not intended to adduce any evidence in support of the charge. Up to that moment he was ignorant of the grounds of the charge, and of its sudden abandonment. From the course which Mr. Beresford had adopted there was, he was sure, no ground for the most lurking suspicion—there was not the slightest imputation on his character; and he was ready and anxious to have left his case to the consideration of the jury.

Mr. James said no compromise had been made, and no such charge could be made against any either. Lord Campbell said that, under the circumstances, it might be supposed that the course pursued was suspicious; but, from what had taken place, the public mind would be satisfied that no corrupt compromise had taken place, and the public would be satisfied from the fact of no evidence being adduced to support the charge.

BALANCE-SHEET OF PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—A Parliamentary paper, the first of the present session, has been issued, containing a Government balance-sheet of the public income and expenditure. In the year ended the 10th of October last, the net income was £54,568,351 3s. 5d., and the expenditure £51,320,927 11s. 6d.; leaving an excess of income over expenditure of £3,247,423 11s. 11d. In the year ended the 5th of January last the net income was £54,430,344 9s. 6d., and the expenditure £51,174,839 14s. 11d., leaving an excess of income over expenditure of £3,255,504 14s. 7d. In the Exchequer the balance on the 5th ult. was £4,485,229 18s. 4d.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—By a Parliamentary return just issued, it appears that the total number of persons of every description killed and injured on all the passenger railways open for public traffic in Great Britain and Ireland, during the half-year ended the 30th June, 1853, amounted to 148 killed, and 191 injured, and may be classed as follows:—10 passengers killed and 114 injured, from causes beyond their own control; 14 passengers killed and 7 injured, owing to their own misconduct or want of caution; 39 servants of companies or of contractors killed and 43 injured, from causes beyond their own control; 44 servants of companies or of contractors killed and 20 injured, owing to their own misconduct or want of caution; 40 trespassers and other persons, neither passengers nor servants of the company, killed, and 7 injured, by crossing or walking on the railway; 1 suicide; total, 141 killed and 191 injured. The number of passengers conveyed during the half year amounted to 45,080,316. The length of railway open on the 31st December, 1852, was 7336 miles. The length of railway open on the 30th June, 1853, was 7512 miles. Increase of mileage during the half year, 176.

AN IRISH WAY OF CULTIVATING FLAX.—The expediency of public meetings, in the rural districts of Ulster, to promote the increased cultivation of flax, is now discussed with much zeal by parties interested in this most important branch of agricultural enterprise.—*Dublin Paper.*

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

The near approach of open hostilities between this country and Russia has been productive of great excitement in City circles during the whole of the week. The value of National Stocks has fluctuated considerably; nevertheless, no material decline has taken place in prices, owing to the comparative scarcity of stock and the great abundance of money. Rather large operations have been entered into both for a rise and fall; but the leading sale has been one of £100,000 Three per Cents Reduced by the broker who usually operates for the South Sea Company. This leads us to imagine that several of the bondholders have accepted the proposition made to them some time since to the effect that the Directors would take South Sea Stock at 11s.

Money has been in steady demand. In the rates of discount scarcely any change has taken place, first-class bills of short dates having been done at 4½ per cent per annum. The exports of gold to the Continent continue rather large; but the imports have fallen off considerably. The late arrivals of dollars from Mexico have sold at 5s. per ounce, or ½d. per ounce above the price previously paid.

The Market, on Monday, fluctuated to some extent. Bank Stock marked 217. The Three per Cents Reduced were 92½ to 93½; the Three per Cent Consols, 92½ to 93½; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 94 to 94½. Long Annuities sold at 5 15-16. India Stock was 231. Exchequer Bills marked 13s. to 16s. premium. On Tuesday the Three per Cents Reduced were 92½; the Three per Cent Consols, 91½ to 92½; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 93½ to 94½. India Stock, 232; South Sea Old Annuities, 101. Exchequer Bills advanced to 14s. and 20s. premium. The business doing on Wednesday was by no means extensive. The Three per Cents Reduced sold at 92½ to 91½; the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 93½ to 94½; and the Three per Cents, 91½ to 92½. Exchequer Bills were firm, at 17s. to 20s.; and India Bonds, at 10s. premium. In those Securities large investments have been made. The Market, on Thursday, fluctuated considerably. The Three per Cent Consols were done at 92½ to 91½, both for Money and Time. Reduced Threes were 92½ to 92½; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 93½ to 93½. Exchequer Bills were firm, at 17s. to 20s.; and India Bonds, 10s. premium. Altogether, about an average business was done.

Miscellaneous Securities have been in moderate request. London Dock have been dealt in at 105 to 105½; Australasian Pacific Mail Steam, 11; Electric Telegraph, 17½ to 18; Royal Mail Steam, 57½ to 58; Insurance Shares have ruled dull. Albion, 95; Argus Life, 23; European Life, 20½; General, 5½; Guardian, 59; Globe, 141 to 140 ex div.; Law Fire, 4½; Palladium, 3 ex div.; Pelican, 45; Phoenix, 185; Rock Life, 7½; Royal Exchange, 234; Sun Life, 65; Union, 220; East London Waterworks, 131 ex div.; Southwark and Vauxhall, 89½; West Middlesex, 110½ ex div.; Grand Junction, 7½ to 75 ex div.; Ditto, New, 11½; Hungerford Bridge, 12; Waterloo, 6½; Vauxhall, 22.

With very few exceptions Foreign Bonds have been dull and drooping. The leading quotations have been as follow:—Danish Five per Cents, 101; Mexican Three per Cents, 25½; Russian Five per Cents, 105; Ditto Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 90; Ditto Small 90; Sardinian Five per Cents, 85½; Spanish Three per Cents, 40; Ditto, New Deferred, 19½; Venezuela Three-and-a-Half per Cents, 28½; Belgian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 89; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 61; Dutch Four per Cents, 92½.

Railway Shares have commanded very little attention, nevertheless, prices have been fairly supported. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Ambergate, Nottingham, and Boston Junction, 5½; Caledonian, 53; Eastern Counties, 13½; East Lancashire, 65; Great Northern, 87½; Ditto, A Stock, 68; Great Western, 82½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 65½; Leda Northern, 13½; London and Brighton, 95½ ex div.; London and North-Western, 103; London and South-Western, 81; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 22½; Midland, 63; North British, 92½; South-Eastern, 61½; Vale of Neath, 15½; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 68; Ditto, Extension, 11½; York and North Midland, 45½.

Lines Leased at Fixed Rentals.—Northern and Eastern, 59½.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Eastern Counties New Six per Cent Stock, 15½; London and South-Western Thirds, 7½; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 96; Ditto, 4½.

FOREIGN.—Luxembourg, 7½; Northern of France, 29½; Paris and Lyons, 23; Paris and Strasbourg, 29½; Western of France, 13.

In Mining Shares so little has been doing, that the quotations have ruled almost nominal.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE, Feb. 6.—The supply of English wheat on sale, to-day, was moderate, and in very middling condition. All kinds sold slowly, at a decline of from 2s. to 3s. per quarter. In foreign wheats, very few transactions took place, at 1s. to 2s. per quarter less money. Barley was very dull, and 2s. per quarter lower. Malt met a heavy inquiry, on easier terms. Oats were dull, and lower to purchase. Both beans and peas gave way 2s. per quarter. The flour trade was heavy, and American parcels were 1s. to 2s. per barrel lower.

Feb. 8.—To-day's market was very moderately supplied with all articles of grain, which sold slowly, at Monday's prices. English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 68s. to 82s; ditto, white, 72s. to 88s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 67s. to 81s; ditto, white, —s. to —s.; rye, 50s. to 52s.; grinding barley, 34s. to 39s.; distilling ditto, 30s. to 41s.; malted ditto, 41s. to 46s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 6s. to 7s.; broad barley, 4s. to 5s.; Kingston and Ware, 69s. to 73s.; Chevalier, 74s. to 75s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 28s. to 31s.; potato ditto, 31s. to 33s.; Koughal and Cork, black, 26s. to 30s.; ditto, white, 30s. to 33s.; tick beans, now, 41s. to 52s.; ditto, old, —s. to —s.; grey peas, 44s. to 46s.; maple, 47s. to 49s.; white, 60s. to 62s.; boilers, 62s. to 64s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 72s. to 75s.; Suffolk, 60s. to 62s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 62s. to 65s. per 280 lb. Foreign: French, —s. to —s. per 290 lbs; American flour, 33s. to 44s. per barrel.

Seeds.—For all kinds of seeds, the demand is in a sluggish state, at last week's currency. Cakes command full prices.

Linned, English, sowing, 60s. to 63s.; Baltic, crushing, 55s. to 58s.; Mediterranean and Odessa, 54s. to 60s.; hempseed, 42s. to 44s. per quarter; coriander, 17s. to 18s. per cwt. Brown mustard-seed, 12s. to 14s.; white ditto, 14s. to 16s.; and tares, 8s. to 9s. 6d. per bushel. English rapeseed, 22s. to 23s. per last of ten quarters. Linned cakes, English, 49s. to 51s. 10s. 4d. ditto, foreign, 49s. to 51s. 10s. per ton. Rape cakes, 50s. to 52s. 6d. per ton. Canary, 54s. to 60s. per quarter. English clover seed, red, 58s. to 60s.; white ditto, 54s. to 58s. per cwt.

Bread.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 11d. to 11½d.; of house-hold ditto, 9d. to 10½d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

Imperial Weekly Average.—Wheat, 82s. 8d.; barley, 41s. 8d.; oats, 27s. 0½d.; rye, 49s. 1d.; beans, 47s. 9d.; peas, 52s. 4d.

The Six Weeks' Average.—Wheat, 79s. 4d.; barley, 41s. 8d.; oats, 27s. 0½d.; rye, 49s. 1d.; beans, 47s. 9d.; peas, 51s. 6d.

Duties.—Wheat, 1s.; barley, 1s.; oats, 1s.; rye, 1s.; beans, 1s.; peas, 1s.

Ten.—The public sales held this week have gone off slowly, and green parcels have ruled somewhat lower. In the private market, very little is doing, and common sound congrua is freely offered at 1s. ½d. per lb.

Sugar.—All kinds of raw sugar have met a steady inquiry, at full quotations. Fine yellow Barbadoes has changed hands at 38s. 6d. to 39s. 6d.; mid. to good, 35s. to 38s. 10s. 4d. to 34s. 6d.; low to mid. yellow Jamaica, 34s. to 35s.; good brown Demerara, 32s. 6d. to 33s.; fine yellow Mauritius, 36s. 6d. to 38s.; low to good, 33s. to 35s.; fine white Beaneas, 39s. to 40s.; low to good, 37s. to 38s.; low to good, 35s. to 37s.; low to good, 33s. to 35s.; and Malacca, 28s. 6d. to 32s.; ord. to fine Havannah, 28s. 6d. to 29s. per cwt. Refined goods are steady, at 44s. to 44s. 6d. for brown lumps, and 42s. 6d. to 43s. for low to fine grocery. Crushed commands full quotations.

Coffee.—Good ord. native Ceylon has realised 40s. to 49s. 6d. per cwt. All other kinds of coffee have commanded very little attention.

Provisions.—For all kinds of Irish butter, the demand is in a sluggish state, and prices have a downward tendency. Fine foreign is producing rather more money; but English qualities are held on former terms. The bacon market is dull, at a further decline of 1s. per cwt. Waterford sizeable, 62s. to 64s. per cwt. Lard is quiet as dear as last week. In other kinds of provisions, very little is doing.

Rice.—There is rather more doing in this market. P. Y. C. on the spot, 62s. 6d. to 63s.; and for forward delivery, 63s. 6d. per cwt. Town tallow, 62s. net cash; rough fat, 3s. 9d.

Oils.—Lined oil is in good request, at 34s. to 35s. 6d. per cwt. Net cash are held at full quotations. Turpentine is dull. Spirits, 22 1½s.; in puncheons, 22 1½s.; rough, 14s. 6d. per cwt.

Spirits.—Run continued in good request, at fully the late advance in the quotations. Proof Lowlands, 3s. 9d. to 3s. 10d.; East India, 3s. 7d. to 3s. 8d. per gallon. Brandy commands extremely high rates. Sales of Cognac, best brands of 1851, 9s. 10d. to 10s.; 1850 ditto, 9s. 11d. to 10s. 1d.; older, 10s. 7d. to 10s. 6d.; and low to middling, 8s. 2d. to 9s. 6d. per gallon. Brandy, 3s. 2d. to 3s. 8d.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, 23 1½s. to 25 ½s.; clover ditto, 23 1½s. to 25; and straw, 11 1½s. to 12 ½s. per load.

Cattle.—Carr's Hartley, 21s. 6d. to 22s.; Holywell, 20s.; Old Adair's, 20s.; Redheugh Main, 20s.; Wylam, 24s. 6d.; Gosforth, 28s.; Hetton, 30s.; Stewart's, 30s.; Tice, 30s. per ton.

Hops.—The demand is by no means active, yet prices are supported. Mid and East Kent peckers, 41 1½s. to 43 1½s.; Wexford of Kent, 49s. to 51 1½s.; Sussex, 47 1½s. to 49; Foreign, 45 1½s. to 48 8s. per cwt.

Wool.—The public sales have commanded steadily. Prices are firm, with the prospect of a good termination.

Patatoes.—The supplies being on the increase the demand is heavy, and prices are drooping. York regents, 150s. to 165s.; Scotch ditto, 125s. to 155s.; Irish, 120s. to 135s. per ton.

Smithfield.—There has been a good demand for beasts, at an advance in the quotations of 2d. per 8 lbs. Sheep, calves, and pigs have sold slowly:—3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; calves, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; pigs, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; veal, 4s. 2d. to 5s. 4d.; pork, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 10d. per 8 lbs. to sink the offal.

Newgate and Leadenhall.—Each kind of meal is in moderate request, as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 10d. to 4s. 4d.; mutton, 3s. 0d. to 4s. 8d.; veal, 4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.; pork, 3s. 6d. to 5s. 0d. per 8 lbs. by the carcase.

ROBERT HENRIKSEN.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

WAR-OFFICE, FEB. 3.

1st Life Guards: Troop Corporal Major H. Hanly to be Quartermaster, vice Birnie. 4th Dragoon Guards: L. Byrne to be Veterinary Surgeon, vice Yarnall. 3rd Light Dragoons: Brevet-Major W. Inett to be Major by purchase, vice Yarnall; Lieut. C. R. Colt to be Captain, vice Ure; Cornet E. H. Yrre to be Lieutenant, vice Colt. 11th Veterinary Surgeon T. Hurford to be Veterinary Surgeon, vice Thacker. 15th Veterinary Surgeon W. Thacker to be Veterinary Surgeon, vice Hurford. 14th Foot: Assistant Surgeon T. M. Bleckley to be Assistant Surgeon. 17th W. M. Gibaut to be Assistant Surgeon. 19th Lieut. H. F. Massey to be Captain, vice G. W. Macdonald; Ensign E. W. H. Clarke to be Lieutenant, vice Massey; Ensign G. D. T. Stockwell to be Ensign, vice Clarke. 20th Lieut. G. S. Maxwell to be Lieutenant, vice Maycock. 35th J. N. Wilson to be Ensign, vice Chaplin. 39th Assistant Surgeon J. H. Ross, M.B., to be Assistant Surgeon. 44th: Ensign R. F. Eyre to be Lieutenant, vice Dering; J. Logan to be Ensign, vice Eyre. 46th: Lieutenant J. H. Chambers to be Captain, vice Dickinson; Ensign N. Duncombe to be Lieutenant, vice Chambers; H. Lawson to be Ensign, vice Stockwell. E. H. Helyar to be Ensign, vice Duncombe. 47th: Lieut. G. Maycock to be Lieut., vice Maxwell. 49th: Major J. W. Randolph to be Major, vice Hart; Capt. C. T. Powell to be Major, vice Randolph; Lieut. W. W. Maitland to be Capt., vice Powell; Ensign W. W. Corban to be Lieut., vice Maitland; G. K. Chadfield to be Ensign, vice Corban. 56th: Lieut-Col. J. R. Rotton to be Lieut.-Col., vice Brever Col. Eden; Major S. Oakley to be Lieut.-Col., vice Rotton; Capt. R. S. Cox to be Major, vice Oakley; Lieut. H. J. Folcher to be Capt., vice Cox; Ensign R. J. Hobson to be Lieut., vice Folcher; Ensign C. W. Chaplin to be Ensign, vice Hobson. 67th: R. E. Barry to be Ensign, vice Cameron. 80th: Assist.-Surg. T. F. Wall to be Assist.-Surg. Rifle Brigade: First Lieut. J. Ross to be Adjutant, vice P. Macdonald. 2nd West India Regiment: Major H. W. Whitfield to be Lieutenant Colonel. Gold